



TEHRAN



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### Saudis Agree to Move Coalition Forces

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The United States said today it had reached agreement with Saudi Arabia to relocate U.S. and allied troops to shield them from further attacks. Defense Secretary William Perry and his counterpart Prince Sultan "agreed that coalition forces will move to new locations on Saudi Arabia," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. "It will greatly improve security while ensuring missions will continue to be carried out safely," it said.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

### NATO Starts Restructuring of Force

SARAJEVO — NATO began pulling out the first of its heavy weaponry from Bosnia Tuesday as part of a major shake-up in the alliance's peacekeeping force, NATO officials said.

"The restructuring of the force begins in earnest today (Wednesday) with the redeployment of an American multiple launch rocket system unit," Major Brett Boudreau, spokesman for the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) said. (AFP)

### VAITI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES:

## Iraq Must Abide by UN Resolutions



AL-AHDIRI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the eve of the anniversary of Iraqi attack on Kuwait, the Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Ali Ahmadiri praised the wise stance by Iran toward the issue and for full implementation of UN Resolutions by Iraq.

During the above remark in an interview with the Tehran Times on Wednesday, he said, "Iraq must fully comply with UN Resolutions and no one is accepted from Iraq in the guard."

He said that, unfortunately, the resolutions issued regarding Iraqi invasion of Kuwait have not been implemented yet and all issues such as the fate of the looted property, and damaged on Kuwait by the invasion have not been resolved to

referring to some 605 Kuwaiti soldiers of war still detained in jails, the charge d'Affaires said. "We have obtained solid evidence proving that there are a number of POWs still held in Iraq. Besides, there are documents and official arrest orders indicating that many well-known individuals were taken to and imprisoned there following expulsion of Iraqi troops from the area."

He further lauded the wise and realistic stand taken by Iran on

Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait and said, "From the very outset of the Iraqi aggression, Iran condemned Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait."

The Kuwaiti charge d'Affaires continued by saying, "The realistic approach adopted by Iran had an extremely positive impact on the relations between Iran and Kuwait and promoted the friendly ties between the two countries."

It is worth noting that on August 2, 1990, the Iraq launched a sudden attack on Kuwait and occupied that country. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait lasted for seven months. Eventually, the U.S. and some other Western countries, in a concerted move, forced Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## UN Envoy Lashes Out at Taleban After Shell Attack

KABUL — The UN's new special envoy to Afghanistan on Wednesday accused the Taleban militia of "spitting in his face" following the latest shell attack on the besieged Afghan capital.

The stinging criticism of the militiamen came after six shells struck Kabul during special ambassador Dr Norbert Holl's first visit here since taking up his post last month.

"Rocketing started here which I did not like at all because it demonstrates a sort of contempt for my mission," Holl told journalists at the end of his two-day trip to the capital.

"I will take it up with the Taleban as this is no way to treat a peace emissary, by shooting at him. If you receive a guest in your house you don't start spitting in his face."

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## Arab Countries Draw Up Draft Plan to Fight Terrorism

CAIRO — Arab countries finalized work Tuesday on a strategy to combat terrorism by which would commit to preventing terrorism from becoming a threat to the region.

The Arab strategy will be based "on the extradition of wanted terrorists and the adoption of strong measures against terrorists" in Arab nations, said Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Salem of Saudi Arabia.

Salem refused to specify if any steps would be taken against Arab countries supporting terrorism. "We cannot enter into such details before the strategy is adopted" by the ministers, he said.

But Egyptian Deputy Interior Minister Mustafa Abdel Qadir said Egypt "did not prevent Sudan from attending."

The Arab strategy will be based "on the extradition of wanted terrorists and the adoption of strong measures against terrorists" in Arab nations, said Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Salem of Saudi Arabia.

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(Contd on Pg. 15)

## 9th Int'l Islamic Unity Conference Opens Today



TASKHIRI

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani will open the Ninth International Islamic Unity Conference, to be held from August 1-3, today.

Religious, political figures and scholars from 35 countries will participate in the conference.

The conference is regularly held in Tehran every year on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S).

The subject of this year's conference is unity on the Sunna of Prophet (S), his infallible house-

hold and his companions.

Some eighty articles by scholars from different parts of the world have been received by secretariat of the conference.

During the Unity Week regional seminars on Islamic Unity will be held in provinces of Sistan-Baluchistan and Kurdistan as well as in Gorgan (Mazandaran).

Head of Islamic Culture and Communications Organization Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Taskhiri said earlier this week, "By unity, we do not mean that all Muslims should think identical, but rather our aim is to bring our

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## "Provide Comfort" Extension Marks Erbakan's First U-Turn

ANKARA — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, by agreeing to extend the Turkey-based multinational operation to protect Iraqi Kurds, has committed a key policy about-face after just one month in office.

While Erbakan's pro-Islamic

Welfare Party was in the Turkish opposition, it staunchly opposed the U.S.-Anglo-French air surveillance of northern Iraq to protect Kurds against Baghdad's aggression.

But the Turkish Parliament on Tuesday gave the five-year-old Operation Provide Comfort, based in southwestern Incirlik, near Adana, a five-month extension until the end of the year.

The United States on Tuesday welcomed the decision by the Turkish Parliament to extend an operation to protect Kurds in northern Iraq, saying it was a test of U.S.-Turkish relations.

"That's a great victory for Turkey and the United States and the Erbakan government," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said following the parliamentary vote in Ankara.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and his pro-Islamic Welfare Party supported the proposed one-year renewal of Operation Provide Comfort in the vote that marked a shift from their previous staunch opposition.

Political sources in Ankara said that while Erbakan was won over by intensive discussions with visiting U.S. teams, he had difficulties in persuading his pro-Islamic Welfare Party to support a fresh mandate.

Burns described discussions about Operation Provide Comfort as "really the first test of the new U.S.-Turkish relationship" following the appointment of the Islamist prime minister.

## Congratulations and Holiday Notice

On the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of the Holy Prophet (S), the sixth infallible Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet (S), we congratulate the world Muslims on their auspicious occasion.

The 9th International Islamic Unity Conference opens tomorrow on the occasion of the Unity Week. An 8-page special issue on Unity Week is inside. For article on the Holy Prophet's (S) Birthday see page 1. Our next issue will appear on August 1.

## Clinton Criticizes New Israeli Settlement Plans



WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday criticized reported plans to relaunch Israeli settlements in the West Bank, warning they could derail the fragile Mideast peace process.

Clinton said he had heard reports that new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was

planning to expand existing settlements and build roads around areas under Palestinian self-rule.

"We are concerned about anything that could affect the peace process adversely," Clinton said in joint press conference with

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## Muslim Unity Not Implying Unifying Schools of Thought

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Islamic unity and convergence of different schools of thought does not mean that the followers of different schools of thought should give up their beliefs and embrace the teachings of another school of thought, rather unity refers to shunning trifle differences and the formation of a united bloc against the common enemy, Seyed Ja'afar Shahidi said to the Tehran Times.

The renowned writer and professor of Tehran University, Shahidi talking to the Tehran Times on the occasion of the Unity Week, added contrary to what the naives or mischievous persons spread, we never want to force



SHAHIDI

the followers of other Islamic schools of thought to convert to another school of thought.

Embracing any religion should be on the basis of reason and logic. People embrace religions on the basis of the reasoning that convinces them not due to political or social pressures, he said.

Shahidi, 78, stressed that the true unity among Muslims entails that the Muslims give priority to the Islam and common interests of all Muslims instead of pursuing their own parochial, sectarian interests.

We are living in a sensitive situation. The enemies of religion are deadly determined to eliminate religion from the face of the globe. This is the duty of Muslims to shun differences in order to safeguard Islam. Indeed the commonalities among Muslims are far more than their differences, he added.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## Five Russians Killed in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Five Russian soldiers were killed by an explosion in war-torn Chechnya as Russian warplanes continued to bomb suspected Chechen areas in the north Caucasus republic, officials said Wednesday.

The five soldiers died and a sixth was injured when an explosive device went off on their route back to base Tuesday, Interfax quoted the military command as saying.

There were no further details, but Russian soldiers regularly hit landmines, or are ambushed with rocket-propelled grenades, as they move about in armored personnel carriers and tanks.

Another 11 soldiers were injured.

(Contd on Pg. 15)

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TEHRAN TIMES NEWS SERVICE  
Editor-in-Chief, Tel: 8809500  
Editorial Office, Tel: 8810293-5  
Electronic Access Tel: 8809437  
8809470  
Telex: 213662 TTIM IR  
224569 TTIP IR  
Fax No. 8808214  
Address: No. 32, Koucheh Bimeh  
Nejatollahi Ave. [former Villa]  
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In the Name of Allah

Say: Surely my prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are (all) for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

No associate has He; and this am I commanded, and I am the first of those who submit.

(HOLY QORAN)  
(6:162 & 163)

## Italian Deputy FM Denounces Baseless Accusations Against Iran

ROME — Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Piero Fassino here Tuesday denounced the U.S. stance against Iran, terming it as 'hostile and baseless'.

Referring to accusations made by the U.S. against Tehran, he noted that if a country was accused of organizing terrorist acts beyond

its borders, such allegations should be supported with reliable documents.

He added that only after the charges had been proved would it be logical to impose sanctions on the offending state.

If any country, without any proof, was accused of supporting

terrorism, there was the danger of the prevalence of an "accusatory" approach in international policy making, Fassino stressed.

He further underlined that charging Iran, Libya or any other state of being a supporter of terrorism would not help in effectively countering terrorism.

On relations between the U.S. and Europe, Fassino stated that European countries sympathize with Americans who were attacked in their own land. However, this did not mean that Europe followed Washington's policies to economically isolate other countries.

(IRNA)

## Bangladesh Premier Thanks President Rafsanjani

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a reply message, thanked President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for his felicitations on the occasion of her election as prime minister of Bangladesh, a press release faxed here yesterday from the Bangladesh Embassy said.

Prime Minister Hasina, in her message, said she looked forward to working with the Iranian president towards "further consolidating, widening and strengthening the fraternal relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two Islamic countries in the years ahead."

## OPINION

### The Unity Week

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ تَرَفُّوا وَبَيْنَهُمْ وَكَانُوا شِرْكًا لَسْتَ مِنْهُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ

Surely they who divided their religion into parts and became sects, you have no concern with them; ... (6:159)

Allah revealed to Prophet Mohammad (S) that those holding sectarian attitudes had nothing to do with him and he also had nothing to do with the adherents of sectarianism and discrimination in religion, for the Prophet was a standard-bearer for peace and unity.

On an initiative taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Rabi-ul Awwal 12-17 (July 29-Aug. 3) period has been termed the Unity Week to highlight the necessity for Islamic unity.

The Unity Week is honored by the followers of all Islamic schools of thought, since it includes the auspicious birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (S). A majority of the Sunni historians believe that the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (S) is Rabi-ul Awwal 12. However, the Shia scholars mostly believe that it falls on Rabi-ul Awwal 17.

The Unity Week has drawn the respect of all Islamic schools of thought as they have come to realize that the consolidation of fraternal ties and resorting their past glory is only possible by enhancing unity in the Muslim world.

The holy Prophet (S) was born in a society where fratricide and feud was prevalent and the backward society was smeared with blood. He launched his mission aiming to create fraternal feelings and peace and lead the society to great moral ideals (2:208, 3:64).

The holy prophet believed—and was ordained by the Almighty—that he should not prosecute or disturb any individual for his personal beliefs (2:256). At the same time, the Almighty had ordained him to display the signs indicating his divine mission and put forward the reasons proving the veracity of his message so that the people would be able to select the right path themselves (16:125).

Although the prophet was well aware that he was introducing the path to the salvation of mankind, he never sought to impose his views on others. Nevertheless, he defended himself and his followers when a war was waged by the infidels and made every effort to foil the plots hatched to enshroud his divine message. Also, he did not spare those who acknowledged that he was a divine messenger but did not follow the right path due to temporal gains or for fear of losing their socio-political positions.

Undoubtedly, Islam is the religion of peace, friendship and brotherhood and the true followers of Islam deserve its blessings more than others. Islam does not deprive anybody of its blessings; yet he may deprive himself of God's blessings through blasphemy and spite.

Therefore, the Muslims should be the prime beneficiaries of the divine bounty and grace by strengthening the ties of brotherhood among themselves. Thanks God, the tendency in this direction has turned into a deep inclination for convergence among Muslims. Thus, Muslims are marching ahead to form a strong united Islamic front.

The Islamic front, comprised of over one billion Muslims, has at its disposal the world's most strategic spots and richest resources. Hence, it can easily resolve the issues facing the Muslim world.

It is hoped that the Unity Week can expedite the formation of this united front and remove the intellectual and material barriers to its formation. However, it is necessary to call on all Muslims to join this process so as to confront the globe devourers, who are out to subvert Islam.

Indeed, the Muslims, as the Almighty has recommended, should be brethren in faith (49:10, 3:103). Also, they should bear in mind that their commonalities are more than those of the followers of other religions. Consequently, they can hold dialogues among themselves aimed at bringing about peaceful co-existence and religious tolerance more easily.

## Habibi: Science, Knowledge Important for All Nations



BISHKEK — Iran's First Vice-President, Hassan Habibi, said science and knowledge should serve the advancement and elevation of all nations and cultures without discrimination.

He made the statement on Tuesday in an address to the professors and students of the Bishkek Faculty of Humanities in Kyrgyzstan, underlining the necessity for cooperation of scientists and students of regional countries for revival of scientific life and advancement of human knowledge.

President of the Bishkek University of Humanities said spread of Persian language and literature can help the people of the region regain their original identity.

The Bishkek University of Humanities awarded Hassan Habibi an honorary doctorate which was granted by the Kyrgyz minister of higher education.

(IRNA)

## Pakistani Ambassador Lauds Iran's Role in Covering Regional News

TEHRAN — Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Khalid Mahmood in a meeting here Wednesday with Managing Director of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Fereydoon Verdinejad, termed the agency's role in promotion of Tehran-Islamabad ties as crucial.

Calling for expansion of media cooperation between the two countries, Khalid expressed his satisfaction with the very close mutual relations.

He further underlined that IRNA has been very successful in giving coverage to regional news and developments particularly on issues related to Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Verdinejad referred to the two countries' media cooperation as close and called for further strengthening of the ties.

Expressing satisfaction over efforts made by the two neighboring states to establish peace and security in Afghanistan, he hoped that the joint efforts would lead to creation of unity among the belligerent sides and would bring an end to bloodshed in that country.

As to cooperation between Iranian and Pakistani news agencies, Verdinejad stated that the two agencies have been successful at regional news organizations including Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (OANA) and the Non-Aligned News Agencies Pool (NANAP).

(IRNA)

## Besharati Emphasizes Safety and Security of Iranians in Azerbaijan

TEHRAN — Islamic Republic of Iran and the Azerbaijan Republic signed two memoranda of understanding in cooperation between the disciplinary forces of the two countries and combat against drug smuggling.

The documents relating to the two memoranda were signed at the end of the talks of Iran's Interior Minister, Ali Mohammad Besharati, and the Azerbaijan Re-

public's Interior Minister, Ramil Esobov, in Tehran.

Iran's interior minister hinted at the two countries' high capacity for expansion of economic and trade cooperation and said to guarantee the security of the merchants trafficking between the two countries help boost economic relations.

Besharati called on the Azeri officials to provide the necessary

facilities to provide the ground for security of Iranian citizens traveling to that country.

He stressed Iran's policy of developing friendly and good relations with its neighbors and expressed hope that with the measures taken by the officials of the Azerbaijan Republic some existing problems would be removed, thus observing the mounting growth of cooperation between the

## Velayati Confers With Bosnian Premier

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati conferred in Geneva on Wednesday with the Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic.

The Iranian minister attended the gathering of the Contact Group of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Geneva and then left for Belarussia on a two-day official visit.

The latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the measures taken by the two countries within the framework of the OIC and also the need for coordi-



## BESHARATI:

### Iran Hosting One-Tenth of World Refugees



TEHRAN — More than 2 million refugees are living in Iran, Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati told the 13th gathering of the authorities in charge of the ministry's provincial offices for foreign refugees on Wednesday.

Some 1,400,000 Afghan refugees, 580,000 Iraqis and 40,000 refugees of other nationalities are living comfortably in Iran, he said, adding that Iran respects refugees and provides them with

necessary facilities. Referring to a report submitted by the UN human rights envoy in Iran, Besharati said that the report indicates that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the best and safest place for refugees.

He added that the refugees can live in Iran as long as they wish, and that upon their returning home, Iran will provide them with their necessities.

According to the minister, some 250,000 Afghan refugees are to return home. Each returning refugee will receive 25 dollars and some 50 kilograms of wheat, he added.

Calling on the international bodies to increase their contributions to the refugees in Iran, Besharati noted that while Iran is hosting one-tenth of the world refugees, it is receiving only one percent of the funds allocated in this regard.

He said that due to the prevalent conditions in Afghanistan, it is impossible for the Afghan refugees to return home for the time being.

nation between Iran and Bosnia-Herzegovina aimed at making proper decisions were discussed by Velayati and Muratovic.

The two sides further discussed the outcomes of the recent visit of Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi to Bosnia-Herzegovina and the signing of seven agreements on mutual cooperation by the two countries and expressed satisfaction over the implementation of agreements on granting credit by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian prime minister voiced his gratitude to Iranian government and people for the aid and support provided by them to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the special session of the OIC's Contact Group, Muratovic thanked the Islamic countries for their support but stressed that the peace accord has not been fully implemented yet.

He said that circumstances are not ready for the return of the Bosnian refugees and that the Serb war criminals are not arrested and prosecuted yet. Muratovic regarded the above issues as barriers to the implementation of peace accord and called on the international bodies to support his country in its demands.

## Two Countries

The Azeri minister thanked for Iran's good will and said using the valuable expertise of the Islamic Republic of Iran is very useful for newly independent countries such as the Azerbaijan Republic.

Azerbaijan Republic's interior minister hinted at the security of Iranian merchants and said "I personally pursue the matter and en-

(Contd on Pg. 15)

Russia, Iran Ink Surface Transport

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## Russia, Iran Ink MOU on Surface Transportation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran's Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Forouzesh concluded a letter of understanding with Russian Minister of Surface Transport Nikolai Zakh.

According to the agreement Iranian vessels at the Caspian Sea will be allowed to berth at Makhach Qaleh Port, capital of Dagestan Republic, IRNA reported.

Iran has also undertaken to offer a draft constitution of a joint company for operation in building Olja Port at the estuary of the Volga River, as well as indicate the time and amount of Iranian investment on the project.

The Iranian government has also indicated its interest to benefit from the Russian know-how in building multi-purpose water canals. Iran's Construction Jihad Minister said that his ministry had already built as many as 30 ports in Iran and supervised the building of 80,000 kilometers of rural roads. He said the building of Olja Port by Iran's Construction Jihad

Ministry would greatly improve Iran-Russia relations.

Meanwhile, Russian Minister Nikolai Zakh, said that in light of a visit last week, between Construction Jihad Minister of Iran and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Bolshakov, the situation for broadening Iran-Russia relations was perfect.

The Russian official said he had called on Iranian entrepreneurs to contribute to a project for building Makhach Port in conjunction with European partners.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Madad said that Iran had 35 percent of a joint company with the Russian Federation and that it would make an investment for developing port facilities at Olja at the estuary of the Volga River to the Caspian Sea.

He said access to Makhach Qaleh Port by the Iranian vessels at the Caspian Sea would greatly help access of Iranian trucks to the continent through the Russian soil.

## NIDC's Operations, Overseas Ventures Outlined

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) has saved \$1.5 billion for the country so far by achieving self-sufficiency in manufacture, repair and maintenance of its equipment and carrying out drilling operations since 1989.

Managing director of the company Mohammad Javad Asemipour said here Wednesday that since the start of the First Five-Year Plan, the NIDC has dug 467 wells and repaired 200 others, IRNA reported.

The Iranian official said that Iran was 96 percent self-sufficient in manufacture, repair, and maintenance of on-shore drilling equipment.

The NIDC is ready to export its technical and engineering services, he said.

Asemipour said the company launched 86 sampling operations in the year 1372 (March 21, 1993-March 20, 1994), 116 in 1373 (March 21, 1994-March 20, 1995) and 200 in 1374 (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996). It expected to do 220 sampling operations by the

year end on March 20, 1997, he added.

He said that by carrying out such operations, the company saved \$25 million for the country.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Asemipour said that his company has signed Rls. 80 billion worth of contracts with Iranian contractors since the triumph of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 in order to foil impacts of U.S.-imposed economic sanctions and encourage domestic manufacturers to make components needed by the oil industry.

The NIDC has set up a joint company with Libya and the machinery needed by the joint company has been manufactured by the Iranian ground forces and is ready to be exported to Libya.

Moreover, he said, the Iranian company has signed a contract with Senegal for exploratory and digging operations.

## 40,000 Square Meters of Tarpaulin Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 40,000 square meters of tarpaulin valued at \$180,000 was exported to the Central Asian countries during the first quarter of this calendar year (started March 21), the managing director of a tarpaulin manufacturing factory said in Karaj on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Hosseini Nejad, head of Iran Tarpaulin Manufacturing Plant said that his factory exported \$400,000 worth of tarpaulin last year and it expects to export \$one million worth of the material to the Central Asian countries and Russia this year.

According to Hosseini Nejad, the tarpaulin exported so far included industrial gloves, tarpaulin materials and industrial filters.

The manager said that in order to increase export of the material, permanent representative offices

have been opened in those countries which can play a major role in introduction of Iranian made goods.

## Iran's Economy Too Strong to Be Hurt

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran has laid a firm foundation for its economic development to the effect that it can tolerate economic sanctions imposed on it, a senior official said Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Deputy Head of the Majlis Commission on Oil Mohsen Yahyavi said that Iranian economy is now less dependent on oil than it was last year or two years ago.

Yahyavi said that Iran imported over \$16 billion worth of goods in 1373, while the figure dropped to eight billion last year.

## France Rebuffed by Brussels on Currency Penalties

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - French demands for the EU's budget mechanism to be used to penalize countries that allow their currencies to depreciate have been rejected by the European Commission, an AFP dispatch reported from Brussels.

A report adopted by the commission on Tuesday concluded that such a step would be legally impossible before 1999 - when the current EU budget accord expires - and economically ill-advised.

France had suggested that pay-

ments from EU's structural funds, designed to help poorer countries catch up with the rest of the union, be calculated in national currencies rather than ECUs.

This would ensure that countries whose currencies depreciated received smaller - rather than larger, as at present - amounts as a result of conversion into the national currency.

The French demand for a commission study on the issue reflects deep concern that countries which are not part of the first wave of monetary union in 1999 will let their currencies devalue against

the Euro to gain a trading advantage.

France is particularly alarmed at being locked into a strong Euro bloc while its neighbors Italy and Spain, remain on the outside, free to indulge in "competitive devaluations." Belgium has also expressed concern about the issue.

A separate commission report last year, however, concluded that countries which devalue do not gain any lasting competitive advantage. The short-term boost of lower export prices is quickly eaten away by the higher inflation that devaluation produces.

## North Korea Seeks Foreign Investors for Free-Trade Zone

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A close aide to North Korean Leader Kim Jong Il said Wednesday that businesses in Hong Kong had shown great interest in investing in the country's first free-trade zone, an AFP dispatch reported.

Kim Jong U, Vice Chairman of the External Economy Commission, was in Hong Kong to tout North Korea's Rajin-Sonbong free Trade Zone, under construction near Russia and China.

"What we have to say is that interest shown by investors from Hong Kong is more than we have originally expected," Kim told reporters through an interpreter.

The official's visit here followed a similar seminar in Tokyo earlier this month when he said North Korea needed four billion dollars to improve infrastructure in the zone, most of which it intended to get from abroad.

North Korea, still reeling from

devastating floods in 1995, said in a dispatch monitored this week that torrential rains last week had caused heavy loss of life and wiped out its Western granaries.

Kim said several agreements and letters of intent, mainly on highway and hotel projects, had been signed during the Hong Kong seminar, despite the fact that only half of those invited, mostly from South Korea, attended.

He declined to disclose the value of the deals, citing "commercial confidentiality."

Kim said that aside from South Korea, investors in Europe and the United States had shown more interest in the free trade zone than those from other countries in Asia.

North Korean officials accompanying Kim on the trip said 10 South Korean companies had offered to invest in projects in which the North would process goods on a commission basis for the South.

The free trade zone is adjacent

to the Tumen River, where the boundaries of China and Russia meet at the northern tip of North Korea, and has a population of 140,000, with ports and industrial parks.

"Despite keen competition from China and Russia, we are trying to make our investment incentives more competitive with the lowest investment cost," said Kim.

He said North Korea offered huge opportunities for foreign manufacturers, particularly in light industrial projects, because of its strategic location in Northeast Asia.

"We have shifted our dependency in heavy industries to areas where return on investment can be regained quickly," said Kim.

"Our government's priority now is only light industries, foreign trade, and agriculture... in line with the global economic trend."

## Japan Dithers at Door of Recovery

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Japan has reached the threshold of sustainable economic recovery, but is finding the next step difficult because it will require complete overhaul of how it does business, the country's chief economic planner said Wednesday, as cited by AFP.

"Although we are at a stage in only one step to go towards a fully fledged economic recovery, it is indeed extremely difficult to our economy on that path," said Shusei Tanaka, Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency.

"In order to link the current process of economic recovery to a fully fledged economic recovery there is a need to drastically implement structural reforms," Tanaka told the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

It is a cause Tanaka has championed since his appointment in January by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who shares the

director general's zeal for sweeping deregulation.

Hashimoto held July 9 the first of a series of cabinet meetings on deregulation, which have been closed to ministry bureaucrats, in an attempt to establish political consensus on the need to overhaul the administration that controls vast areas of the economy.

Tanaka said that after years of virtually zero growth following the collapse of the so-called speculative "bubble economy," the shock of the yen's surge to record highs, and exposure of massive bad debt in the financial system, Japan was strong enough to undergo reform.

The EPA said in five successive monthly reports that "moderate economic recovery" was underway in Japan. That assessment was upgraded last month, when it said that recovery had made "half a step progress."

"We are now able to open the door towards fully fledged eco-

nomics recovery," Tanaka said, but added: "Although we have opened the door... we haven't stepped inside."

Tanaka said if structural reform is successful, then Japan could expect annual growth in gross domestic product of three percent or more by 2000.

If it fails, then the best the economy could hope for was 1.75 percent, though Tanaka believed even that would be hard to achieve.

Tanaka said the economy has strengthened enough "to survive major surgery," which was effectively the only option if it is to return to healthy growth.

"One possible option is to drastically implement economic structural reform and in that process try to stimulate the emergence of new industrial activities and thereby create new employment opportunities and with this in place try to build an economy which will sustain stable economic growth on a mid to long-term basis," he said.

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# PROPHETHOOD AND PROPHETS



By: Martyr Ayatullah S.M.H.

Beheshti

Tehran Times Service

During the course of history, there has been granted prophethood to such individuals who were talented, possessing a high degree of intelligence. What has this prophethood been? Prophethood has meant that these individuals, on account of their special degree of discernment and intelligence received certain teachings from the Creator of this world who had made it binding upon them to convey the same to the rest to humanity. This particular and exceptional degree of intelligence and discernment has been termed as "revelation" in the Holy Quran. In the same way, this mission and obligation is known as



The grave of the 6th Imam of the Infallible Household of the Prophet Mohammad (S), Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS) in Baql, Medina.

"Prophethood" in Farsi language and "mission" in Arabic.

How and in which way does man come to believe in the presence of such a typical awareness

and discernment in prophets? The answer is: through studying the accurately probing into the private life, personal state, and individual and social behaviour of

these individuals, the degree of their thinking and learning prior to "divine revelation" and after it, and their amazing and untiring efforts aimed at fructifying these instructions, and the mission which they claimed to have been assigned to them, in a way that a researcher is compelled to accept the presence of a special mental state in these individuals. In other words, there is an exceptional degree of learning, excitement and zeal which human beings are devoid of, present in such individuals.

Of course, they also possessed the power, if necessary, to create miracles and to accomplish extraordinary tasks beyond the power of ordinary human beings, to establish the rightfulness of their claim.

A study of the exceptional knowledge and state of mind constitutes one of the avenues of the human psychological research today. Psychology or observation of "special and exceptional mental states", different types of which exist even today in some individuals in the form of a very strong feeling of anticipation, finds itself confronted with very complicated and deep mental issues. And of course, in the manner which is usual with knowledge, it is trying to discern something more of these complications and to express views on them. The time is now over for a researcher, upon coming across such a special state, to content himself with a series of superficial explanations and argumentations, and in this way, acceptance of a series of special and exceptional states of mind in some human beings continues to be not only something acceptable but also interesting.

"Divine revelation" is a particular state of exceptional moods of mind, and psychology today doesn't have at its disposal even a single individual, endowed with it, for carrying out studies and scientific probe. Due to this reason, a psychologist, similar to any other individual, can come to believe, by way of an accurate re-

viewal of the biography, efforts and teachings of a prophet, that this individual has enjoyed a specially exceptional state of mind (divine revelation). But it is evident that he would never have access to such an individual in order to study his internal domain closely by applying different methods, and for example "special psychological and psychoanalytical tests".

Prophets have not only possessed this special awareness and discernment, but also enjoyed a strong and invincible willpower, zeal and extraordinary warmth emanating from a very firm faith in their mission and teachings, as well as other spiritual and moral capabilities to carry out their mission in which they were constantly confronted with stiff opponents and tiresome and dangerous problems.

In these individuals, there existed no privilege, element and index that could give them superiority over man. They have been human beings like all other men, but possessing the capability of receiving divine revelation. They have existed in different parts of the world. The life history and movement of a number of them are available. For instance, "the life history, efforts and movement of the Prophet of Islam who was born in 7th Century A.D. in Hejaz (Saudi Arabia), lived there and brought about from there the roots of Islamic religion based upon divine revelation (Holy Quran) are in full explicitness. The same applies to the recorded details of his life. This is among the most reliable evidence of man's recorded history". Prophets who have been mentioned in the Holy Quran, have existed in the Orient and especially in the current "Middle East". The Holy Quran has mentioned the names of 25 prophets. Some of these prophets were ordained in societies which enjoyed an advanced civilization, while some others did so in backward societies. In the Holy Quran, in this respect, due attention has

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## The Prophet's (S) Birth and Childhood

Tehran Times Service

Mecca was covered by a heavy silence and darkness. No signs of life and activity were observed in it. Only the moon, as usual, slowly arose from behind the darkened surrounding mountains and cast its pale, delicate rays upon the simple luxury-free houses and upon the sandy regions outside the city.

Little by little, midnight gave way to the early morning dawn. A pleasant breeze passed through the burnt land of the Hijaz and made it ready for a short rest. Now the stars, too, added to the beauty of this pure banquet of nature and smiled at the residents of Mecca.

It was now early dawn and early rising, vigilant, night birds were singing beautifully in that heavenly weather. They seemed to be speaking in a romantic language to their Beloved! The edge of the horizon of Mecca was on the verge of the brightness of dawn but still a mysterious silence prevailed over the city. All were asleep. Only Amina, awake, felt the contractions she had been expecting.

Gradually the contractions became stronger. Suddenly Amina saw several unknown resplendent ladies in her room who smelled extremely sweet. She started wondering who they were and how they had entered her room through the closed door.

Soon her dear baby was born and thus after several months of waiting, Amina had the pleasure of seeing her child at the early dawn of the 17th of Rabiul-Awal.

All were overjoyed with this child's birth. But now that Muhammad, peace and the mercy of God be upon him and his descendants, had illuminated Amina's dark and silent room of prayer, her young husband, Abdullah, was not present because he had passed away in Medina on his return from Damascus and had been buried there leaving Amina alone.

### The Wonderful Baby

The Prophet was born and his blessed birth gave rise to numerous wonderful incidents in the sky and on the earth, especially in the East which was at that time the cradle of civilization.

These happenings were similar to the most speedy mass-media of the world today and informed the people of an imminent, very significant incident. Since this new born child was predestined to destroy the peoples' old superstitious beliefs and customs and to lay new foundations for human progress and prosperity, from the very beginning he sounded the alarm.

On that blessed night, Amshiravan's magnificent palace, which incarnated a false fantasy of power and eternal monarchy, and upon which people looked with fear and awe, trembled. Fourteen of its towers collapsed and the fire in the fire-temple of Persia, which had been flaming for 1000 years, was suddenly extinguished.

So the humiliated worshippers of that false, destructive object of worship, whose minds had been blocked by the obstacles of prejudice and false imitation and thus

(Contd on Pg. 15)

## The 6th Imam of the Infallible Household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

Tehran Times Service

Jafar Sadiq is the Sixth Imam of the Shias. He was born on the 7th day of Rabiul-Awal on the year 83 Hijra. His name is Jafar but he is often known as Sadiq. He is also referred to by the nickname Abu Abdullah and he is again called Sabir (patient), Fazil (learned), Taher (pure), Sadiq (truthful) all name derived from his beautiful character and attributes.

Fathima known as Om Farwa is his mother. She is the daughter of Qasim bin Muhammad bin Abi Bakr. Qasim, her father, was one of the close companions of Imam Zainul Abidin. He was one of the seven jurisprudents of Mecca.

Om Farwa (Fathima) was a greatly respected lady, most pious and most generous. Therefore, Imam Sadiq is also called Son of the Great Lady. Jafar Sadiq succeeded his father Imam Muhammad Baqir following his death and became Imam in the year 114 Hijra when he was 31 years old. In those days constant revolts and uprisings by sympathizers of Imam Ali's family and his offspring and by the Abbasid family had shaken the foundations of the Bani Umayyad government and its institution. Eventually the government was toppled in the year 132 AH and paved the way for the ascension of the Abbasids.

The downfall of the one and the ascendancy of the other to power led to what is known as the

period of the interregnum, or interval, and served as an ideal opportunity for laying the groundwork for the teaching and dissemination of Islamic sciences among the people.

Imam Sadiq took the best possible advantage of the prevailing situation to attract several hundreds of students to him who in turn benefited from being taught by the Imam turned them into scholars of high caliber.

A variety of sciences ranging from Islamic law to moral sciences, divinity, jurisprudence and Islamic legal codes were expounded by the Imam to these students who came crowding from far and wide to his school thirsty for knowledge.

It was from this time onward that there emerged true Islam in its real phase.

Imam Sadiq was not only an oracle in religious sciences but he was also a great doctor in the science of health.

He acquired renown in medicine and chemistry during his time. The famous Muslim chemist of those times, Jaber bin Hayyan refers in his writings to the Imam as his teacher and his lord!!

Imam Sadiq gained fame as a teacher of Islamic sciences. Great scholars of later days were his students. As the role of a scholar consists in the promotion of human prosperity and fostering of civilization we can rightly regard Imam Sadiq, apart his high sta-

tion of Imamhood, as one of the greatest personality who ever appeared in the world of knowledge.

In the annals of Islamic history Imam Sadiq was by far the only Imam who served to propagate Islamic ideology and nurture Muslim civilization in its rise to lofty heights. In his later years, on the order of Mansoor Dawaniqi (one of the Caliphs of the Abbasid dynasty) the Imam was transferred from Medina to Kufa.

There, too, he devoted his time to the imparting of Islamic knowledge.

Since it was Imam Sadiq who expanded the scope of Islamic law and minutely explained, interpreted and expounded its legal codes and many other issues besides Shiism came to be named after him as the Jafari religion. Shiism hence came to occupy an unique and original place with an immediacy that derived at that time from the teachings and inspirations of the Imam.

The Shia belief therefore remained safe from corruption and no influences from outside could penetrate, or permeate it, nor were interventions from outside, or interpolations, or additions able to affect its pristine truth.

Imam Sadiq lived during a very critical period of religious ferment and had therefore to grapple with several theological issues and questions, which he did both prudently and courageously.



## Olympic Medals Standings

ATLANTA — Medals standings after 168 events at the Atlanta Olympics on Tuesday.

	gold	silver	bronze	total
United States	24	28	13	65
Russia	19	13	9	41
France	13	6	13	32
China	12	14	8	34
Italy	11	6	9	26
Germany	10	12	19	41
Australia	7	9	17	33
Poland	6	5	3	14
Ukraine	5	2	5	12
Romania	4	5	6	15
Hungary	4	3	5	12
Greece	4	3	0	7
Cuba	3	5	7	15
South Korea	3	5	4	12
Japan	3	4	3	10
New Zealand	3	2	1	6
Switzerland	3	1	0	4
Ireland	3	0	1	4
Turkey	3	0	1	4
Canada	2	7	6	15
Netherlands	2	3	8	13
Brazil	2	2	5	9
Belgium	2	2	2	6
Spain	2	1	2	5
South Africa	2	0	1	3
Ethiopia	2	0	0	2
Belarus	1	4	7	12
Great Britain	1	3	5	9
Kazakhstan	1	3	1	5
Czech Republic	1	2	1	4
Finland	1	2	0	3
North Korea	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1	0	1	2
Slovakia	1	0	1	2
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	2
Armenia	1	0	0	1
Costa Rica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Syria	1	0	0	1
Bulgaria	0	4	4	8
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Jamaica	0	2	0	2
Kenya	0	2	0	2
Austria	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Argentina	0	1	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Namibia	0	1	0	1
Slovenia	0	1	0	1
Uzbekistan	0	1	0	1
Georgia	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Mongolia	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Total	168	170	183	521

## Mighty Russian Lifts the Gold



ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 30): Centennial Olympics men's doubles table tennis gold medalist Liu Guoliang (L) and Kong Linghui of China play in the gold medal match which they won 21-8, 21-13, 21-19, 21-11.

(AFP PHOTO)

ATLANTA — World champion Andrey Chemerkin crushed the world jerk record to win the over-108 kilogram super heavyweight weightlifting title at the Atlanta Olympics Tuesday.

The 24-year-old Russian hoisted 260kg in the clean-and-jerk for a total lift of 457.5kg after lying third in the snatch section at 197.5kg.

German Ronny Weller raised Chemerkin's 15-month-old world mark by 1.5kg to 255kg. The German lay flat on his back, threw his shoes toward the crowd, thinking he had clinched gold.

But within 17 seconds Chemerkin had his world record back.

The 26-year-old Weller, who has moved up after winning the up-to-108kg heavyweight title at the 1992 Barcelona Games, took the silver with a total of 455kg after leading the snatch section along with Bulgarian-born Stefan Botev of Australia at 200kg.

"I thought I won the gold. Initially I was disappointed," said Weller who was also beaten by Chemerkin into second spot at the worlds in Guangzhou in China in November.

Botev settled for the bronze at 450kg after failing in his own world record attempt at 255kg.

Chemerkin, at 1.83m and 165kg, was not impressed by his rival's premature celebrations.

"Basically, I didn't see what Weller did. I don't care if he undressed on the stage. The only thing I cared was how to win," he said. "I would have tried higher if somebody else was closer."

The Police Academy student from the southern Russian town of Solnechnogorsk hopes to retain his title in Sydney and said: "If I am healthy enough I'll be there."

Aleksandr Kurlovich, back in competition after a year-long ban for the use of anabolic steroids, failed in his bid for a third straight Olympic gold.

The 24-year-old Belorussian

barely got through the snatch section with a lift of 195kg after failing on his first two attempts.

He then withdrew after giving up his attempt at 247.5kg in the jerk. He finished fifth overall with a total of 425kg.

Leonid Taranenko of Belarus, the grand old man of weightlifting at age 40, who won the gold at the 1980 Moscow Games and the silver at Barcelona, withdrew due to an injury sustained in training.

The new champion vowed to shun drugs, which have plagued the world of weightlifting but he griped that doping control had been tightened too much.

(AFP)

**Chemerkin Blows  
Wide-eyed  
World's Gold**

ATLANTA — Bart Jan Brentjens of the Netherlands became the first Olympic mountain bike champion here on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old world champion finished the 47.7km (29.6-mile) course over the Georgia International Horse Park in 2hr 17min 37sec.

Switzerland's Thomas Frischknecht, the World Cup winner, was 2min 35sec behind to take the silver.

France's Miguel Martinez 2min 57sec behind in third place.

Italian Paola Pezzo, the 1993 world champion, won the women's title defeating Canadian Alison Sydor, the 1994 and 1995 world champion, while bronze went to Susan Demattei of the United States.

Brentjens dominated the men's race from the start, breaking away with Italian Luca Bramati then shaking him off with 20km remaining.

(AFP)

## Philippines and Thailand Move Closer to Boxing Gold

ATLANTA — The Philippines and Thailand moved a step closer to historic Olympic gold boxing medals with quarterfinal victories at the Atlanta tournament on Tuesday.

Mansueto Velasco is on target for Philippines' first Olympic boxing title after a comfortable 20-10 points victory over Moroccan Hamid Berhili in the light fly-weight class.

Bantamweight Khadpo Vichairachanon is close to fulfilling a mission for Thailand's first Olympic gold with an emphatic 13-4 verdict over Moroccan Hicham Nafil.

While the Asians guaranteed themselves at least a bronze medal in Atlanta, Caribbean powerhouses Cuba qualified all their four boxers into semifinals bouts in Tuesday's two sessions.

Charismatic heavyweight Felix Savon, the five-time world cham-

pion and bidding for his second Olympic gold, and Olympic and world middleweight champion Ariel Hernandez posted expected points victories.

Savon terrorized Georgia's Giorgi Kandelaki with his fearsome right hand on the way to a 20-4 points verdict, while Hernandez did enough to weather rugged Russian Alexander Lebziak, 15-8.

Earlier, Arnaldo Mesa, who was scheduled to fight in the feather-weight class but moved down one class to fill in for Olympic defector Joel Casamayor, saw off stalking Frenchman Rachid Bouaita, 15-8 in the bantamweight division.

Cuba's world champion and Olympic silver medalist Juan Hernandez outpointed Nurzhan Smanov of Kazakhstan 16-8 to also advance to the medal round in the welterweight division.

(AFP)

## Barkley Readies From Round Two With Heal

ATLANTA — Charles Barkley and Shane Heal have already traded shoves and harsh words. Now they will meet again with a berth in the Olympic final at stake.

The United States dream team pounded Brazil 98-75 here on Tuesday to claim a berth in Thursday's semifinals opposite Australia, who stunned Croatia 73-71 in what veteran Andrew Gaze called their greatest-ever triumph.

The National Basketball Association stars beat Australia 118-77 in a pre-Olympic tuneup made notable by Barkley's shoving and yelling with Australian Guard Heal.

"He is a talkative little fellow," Barkley said of Heal. "He called me a couple of names I didn't appreciate and I told him I don't take that off Americans and I'm not going to take that off a foreigner."

Heal responded by saying many Americans supported him over Barkley.

"A lot of Americans have stepped up and said they would like to have done the same thing to him," Heal said. "We respect they are the greatest basketball players in the world. We aren't going to back down."

(AFP)

## China's Liu, Kong Lift Gold Medal

ATLANTA — Liu Guoliang and Kong Linghui of China won the Olympic men's doubles gold medal with a 21-8, 21-13, 21-19, 21-11 win over compatriots and defending champions Wang Tao and Lu Lin on Tuesday.

The bronze medal was won by Yoo Nam-Kyu and Lee Chul-Seung of South Korea who beat Germany's Steffen Fetzner and Joerg Roskopf 21-18, 21-13, 22-20 in the third place playoff.

(AFP)

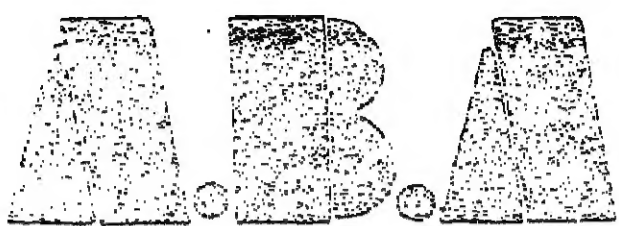


ATLANTA, GA, United States (July 30): Russian weightlifter Andrey Chemerkin of Russia in action during the Olympic snatch competition. Chemerkin later set a new world record in the jerk, lifting 260kg in the over 108kg category.

(AFP PHOTO)

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## Iran, Kyrgyzstan to Open Consulates

BISHKEK — Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan have agreed to open consulates in 'Osh' and 'Mashhad' cities, disclosed the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Europe and America, Mahmoud Vaezi on Wednesday.

Speaking to IRNA, Vaezi added that the agreement was reached during First Vice-President Hassan Habibi's recent visit to the Central Asian Republic.

Iranian Embassy in Bishkek was inaugurated in October 1993.

The deputy foreign minister said that since Iran and Kyrgyzstan share similar views on many regional and international issues, they have decided to further expand their bilateral ties.

Clear policies of Tehran and Bishkek on expansion of political, cultural and economic ties within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), as well as their cooperation in areas related to the developments in Central Asia, are good examples of regular exchange of views between the officials of the two nations, Vaezi added.

The deputy foreign minister hoped that opening of Iran's Consulate in Osh, a Muslim dominated province, would further boost bilateral economic and cultural ties.

Osh, with a population of 167,000, is situated in southern Kyrgyzstan.

## Israel, PLO Close to State Deal on Eve of Rabin's Assassination

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel was close to sealing a secret accord to grant the Palestinians an independent state before the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November, Israeli negotiators revealed on Wednesday.

Yair Hirschfeld, an architect of the Oslo autonomy deals, said a preliminary accord called for a state in the Gaza Strip and 90 percent of the West Bank, and for the Palestinian flag to fly over the Temple Mount in Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

The details of the verbal accord hammered out in October 1995 were confirmed by Yossi Beilin, minister for the peace process in the Labor government of Shimon Peres who took over as prime minister after Rabin's murder.

But close aides of Peres told AFP that the negotiations with the Palestinians did not have the government's official seal of approval.

"They were being supervised by Mr. Beilin without any authorization, behind the back of Rabin and Peres," one of the aides said, asking not to be identified.

Beilin himself said he met Rabin on November 1 to unveil the project with the Palestinians. It was to be discussed 10 days later, but a Jewish fanatic opposed to the peace process shot dead the prime minister on November 4.

"The assassination changed everything," said Beilin.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### MUSLIM...

As an advocate of Islamic unity I have attended several conferences on Islamic unity and found out that most of intellectual differences stem from lack of close contacts among Muslims. Fraternal approach among Muslims will definitely remove such differences, he added.

In order to bring about unity among the Muslim schools of thought, representatives of various schools of thought should maintain close contacts among themselves and settle differences in an amicable atmosphere, he added.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### FIVE...

jured and one died in separate incidents, military officials said.

Meanwhile, Russian jet planes bombed around the village of Shatoi, in the Caucasus mountains south of Grozny, "but not on inhabited areas," the military told Interfax.

The interior minister in the Russian-installed local authorities in Chechnya, Anatoly Taranov, told ITAR-TASS news agency that there had also been fighting in the southeast of the republic and that there had been two attacks on troops inside Grozny.

A spokesman for the Chechens, who have been fighting for independence in a brutal war since December 1994, was quoted by Interfax as saying that planes had bombed around several southern villages and that seven civilians had died and 10 been wounded.

The spokesman added that Chechens had prevented a Russian military column from pushing further into Chechen territory south of Shatoi during a half-hour firefight late Tuesday. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### IRAQ...

The cost of the concerted operation against Iraq by the Western allies, which was paid by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Germany and Japan, has been estimated at 70 billion dollars. Moreover, the damage inflicted on Kuwait and the cost of its reconstruction has been assessed at some 100 billion dollars.

Al-Dafiri further referred to Iran's role in maintaining peace and security in the Persian Gulf and said, "We are assured that Iran can play a major part in maintaining peace and stability in the region, and no regional security plan should be drawn up without

### CORRECTION

In our article entitled "A Farewell to Remember" which appeared on page 15 of Monday's issue, July 29, 1996, Mr. Tariq Ehsan was erroneously referred to as the "Incoming Secretary-General" of the ECO.

The error is a mistake admitted but made in good faith due to lack of time to confirm the story.

The writer deeply regrets the error.

Iran's active participation."

He also stressed, "There is no doubt that the security and stability in the Persian Gulf region must be maintained through the cooperation of the regional countries, and those countries themselves must take measures to this end."

In conclusion, al-Dafiri described as 'cordial' the bilateral ties between Iran and Kuwait and added that, within the next two months, a delegation headed by the Kuwaiti deputy finance minister is to visit Iran in order to finalize a memorandum of understanding on joint investment.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

### BESHARATI...

sure that the criminals shall be punished."

He thanked Iran's assistance to the Azerbaijan Republic, especially Nakhjavan, and called for greater assistance of Iran.

The minister also called for joint cooperation of the two countries for eradication of narcotics and exchange of information in this respect.

The Azeri interior minister invited Besharati to visit the Azerbaijan Republic. The minister and the accompanying delegation visited the holy shrine of the late Imam Khomeini and paid homage to the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(IRNA)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### UN...

The Taliban warriors, who have besieged Kabul for 10 months, on Tuesday fired a volley of rockets which landed in the area of the city housing the German Embassy, where Holl was staying.

Nobody was injured in the latest attack on the suburb near the presidential palace, which takes an almost daily battering from rockets and shells.

Holl said he would ask the Taliban to stop shelling the war-torn city, but added "whether they will do it or not, I do not know."

Holl, a German diplomat who replaced the United Nations secretary-general's last envoy, Mahmoud Mestiri, avoided spelling out details of his peace mission, but said he would be making changes to Mestiri's plan.

"I will not be very specific at the beginning of this mission but I definitely have a few plans and initiatives to get this process moving again," he said.

However, Holl did reveal he would be speaking not only to political and military leaders here, but also seeking the views of other elements of society, including intellectuals, judges and women's groups.

"Mr Mestiri and his predecessors kept talking to political leaders, but I want to broaden the spectrum of my contacts and want to hear more from those who do not belong to the political elite but who are intelligent and sound-minded people," he said.

He also said the United Nations would be coordinating its operations dealing with Afghanistan more closely and that his UN Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSMIA) would remain based inside Afghanistan.

But he said his mission would not move back to battered Kabul from the peaceful eastern city of Jalalabad until its safety could be guaranteed. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### 9TH...

thoughts closer in order that Muslim countries can better understand one another."

Unity means the execution of Islamic laws and adoption of unique stance by Muslims against enemies of Islam, he said.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### ARAB...

By the strategy, Arab nations would commit to "strengthen the punishments against perpetrators of terrorist acts and to freeze and seize monies directed to these acts," a final statement issued by the session said.

It also calls for "strengthening the cooperation against terrorism between the members" by "exchange of help in searching for, investigating and arresting fugitives accused of or convicted of terrorist crimes."

The strategy defines terrorism as "acts of organized violence causing fear or panic" but not including "armed struggle by peoples under foreign occupation to free their lands and gain their rights of self-determination."

Salem said the strategy includes a "plan for implementation to be reviewed every five years." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

### THE PROPHET'S

could not mediate and make intellectual studies of nature, took notice of the truth and were attracted towards a quite different direction. The drying out of the Savah Lake awakened the people of another great region.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### CLITON...

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

He noted, however, that no action has been taken on the plans which constitute a turnaround from the policies of the previous Labor-led governments which have frozen all settlement construction except around Bait-ul-Moqaddas since 1991.

"I don't want to blame them for something they haven't done yet," Clinton said, adding "we expect and believe that Israel will adhere to the agreements it has already made."

The U.S. president said Netanyahu had promised during his July 9 visit to honor previously signed accords giving the Palestinians self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

But Netanyahu has said his government will protect the "right of the Jews" to settle in the

territories.

Mubarak warned against encroaching on any areas granted to the Palestinians. "It's going to complicate the whole process," he said. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

### PROPHETHOOD..

been devoted to the efforts of prophets in different regions of the Middle East. The culture and destiny of the societies from which Islam had emerged were thoroughly linked with the culture and destiny of the religions of these prophets. Quite naturally, the Holy Quran while speaking of "Prophethood", call of prophets, their mission and ratification of the deviations brought by them in religion, constantly speaks of them and throws light upon their character.

Have there been ordained prophets in other parts and societies of the world? In this respect, we must await the results of historical researches and explanations in future. The Holy Quran, in general speaks in this regard: "We sent Messengers before thee; of some we have related thee, and some we have not related thee".

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### U.S. ...

"They agreed to make the moves as quickly as possible, in order to reduce disruption within Saudi Arabia, while improving security for U.S. forces," the embassy added.

"These moves will be initiated immediately and completed on an urgent basis, without interrupting ongoing operations," it said.

Washington has around 6,200 troops in Saudi Arabia, while London has around 400 military personnel and Paris around 110 troops at a base in the eastern city of Khobar.

The U.S., British and French air forces use Saudi bases to impose a flight ban over southern Iraq. This includes the base in Khobar, where a truck bomb on June 25 killed 19 Americans and wounded hundreds of others, including French troops.

A U.S. source said earlier that Perry would visit Kharij Air Base, around 80 kilometers (48 miles) south of the Saudi capital Riyadh, to help determine whether it would be secure enough against an attack.

A U.S. security task force said earlier this week that Kharij was the "prime candidate" for hosting U.S. troops once the decision to relocate them from Khobar and other sites had been taken.

The secretary of defense was also expected to ask Saudi officials to help pay part of the cost of relocating U.S. troops from more exposed urban areas like Khobar. (AFP)

## Zavgayev: Peace Breaking Out in Chechnya

MOSCOW — Doku Zavgayev, head of the pro-Russian government in Chechnya, sought support for his rule Wednesday by telling Moscow's wealthy Chechen community that there had been no fighting for a week in the republic.

Meeting with about 90 Chechens living in Moscow, mostly businessmen, Zavgayev called for support from all sides for his government, which is seen by many Chechens as a puppet regime and relies on the protection of the Russian military for its survival.

Zavgayev told the Chechen diaspora that the almost 20-month war was virtually over, despite daily reports by both sides that he bombing and shooting is continuing unabated.

"I say with authority that today is the eighth day that not a single bomb fell and not one shot

was fired in Chechnya," he said.

The claim verged on the bizarre since Russian television shows footage daily of Russian cannons firing at Chechen positions and the Russian military itself admits it is still using warplanes to bomb in the south of the republic.

One angry questioner shouted at Zavgayev: "Is it normal in a civilized army when the officers are smashed on vodka?"

"How come in Gekhi, where there were just 100 fighters, you fired rockets throughout the village of 14,000 people?" he asked.

"Thank you Mr Zavgayev — Russian pilots are bombing Chechen children."

Zavgayev answered that the human rights situation was dramatically improved, and that the infamous "filtration camps," where hundreds of Chechens have allegedly been tortured or killed after arrest, had all been closed.

"It's not easy, but the situation is moving towards normalization," Zavgayev said.

"Reconstruction is going on. Life is returning," he said. (AFP)

## Hamas Applauds Iran on Its Stance

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Hamas representative in Sudan Monir on Tuesday praised Iran's position towards the issue of Palestine. He said the Iranian position towards Palestine was based on Islamic principles and added that the Islamic Republic had always been the strongest backing to Palestine.

(IRNA)

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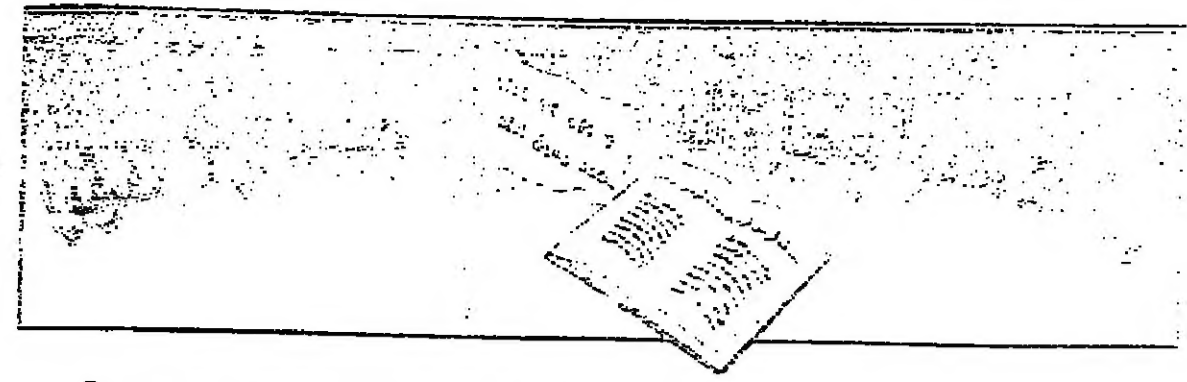
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8-page special issue on Unity Week

LATE IMAM KHOMEINI:

Muslims Should Hold Fast to Islam and Qoran



Excerpts from Imam Khomeini's Will and Testament

**Tehran Times Service**

Dear sisters and brothers:

Wherever you are defend your Islamic and national honor. Defend Muslim countries against the plots of the United States and International Zionism and expose the enemies of Islam.

My dear Muslim brothers and sisters. You are aware that Western and Eastern "superpowers" rob us of our spiritual and material riches in order to keep us in poverty and, thereby, politically, economically, culturally and militarily dependent on them. Come to your senses and regain your Islamic identity. Reveal the plots of international expansionist powers—the United States being their chief.

Today the Muslims' No. 1 enemy is Israel. This cancer of the Middle East martyrs our Palestinian and Lebanese brothers and tries to sow discord among Muslims with the use of all its Satanic powers.

The Muslim world is obviously suffering from oppression in the hands of the United States. We should spread the message of God to Muslims everywhere that there is only one God to whom we owe obedience.

Oh Muslims of the world! The secret of Islamic countries is the truth that we hold and the key to victory is the unity of the Islamic world. The Almighty God has commanded us to hold fast to Him and not to be scattered. The command expresses the need to maintain unity among Muslims everywhere and warns us against divisions and cliques which can lead to our downfall and suffering.

We must pursue a sound foreign policy, preserve our independence, secure the interests of the country and cultivate good relations with countries that do not intend to interfere in our affairs.

And, we must avoid anything that may lead to dependence in those areas.

Know that dependence on others may appear useful at the moment and may even yield much fruit, but in the long run will destroy the country at its roots. Make every effort to improve relations with Islamic countries, awaken their officials and unite together with God.

My advice to Muslim nations: Do not wait for external help in

order to reach your objectives, i.e., the acceptance of Islamic teachings and tenets. You yourselves must rise and take up the challenge which will lead to your independence and freedom. Let the honorable ulama (Muslim clergy) and concerned preachers of all Islamic states call on their governments to extricate themselves from dependence on big powers and learn to depend on their own strength. Victory shall then be ours.

Convince all nations to join hands in unity. Avoid racism which is against the teachings of

(Contd on Pg. 7)

AYATOLLAH KHAMENEI:

Muslims Should Form a United Bloc

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, stressing the importance of Muslim unity in a speech delivered a few years ago at the World Unity Conference, said that one of the basic goals of colonial powers since their arrival in Eastern and Islamic countries was to create a rift among Muslims.

He said several means and methods were used by such powers such as the intensification of the nationalistic feelings in the local residents, magnifying ethnic



differences and dissatisfaction, adding that the corrupt governments who were dependent on such powers undoubtedly had a role to play.

Referring to the geo-political importance of Muslim states and their population which are dispersed in the richest areas of the world, Ayatollah Khamenei spoke of the incongruity wherein poverty is found in areas abundant in wealth.

"Despite their geo-political importance, world Muslims are a religious minority or, where they constitute an absolute majority, are living in unfavorable political and social conditions," the Leader stressed.

At the same time, he said, the Holy Qoran and its sublime teachings enjoin Muslims to aim for perfection in all areas of human life including science, ethics, social justice and government, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

He pointed to the necessity for Muslims not to give in to bullying, saying confidently that Muslims are not in an inferior situation and should hold tight to Islamic values.

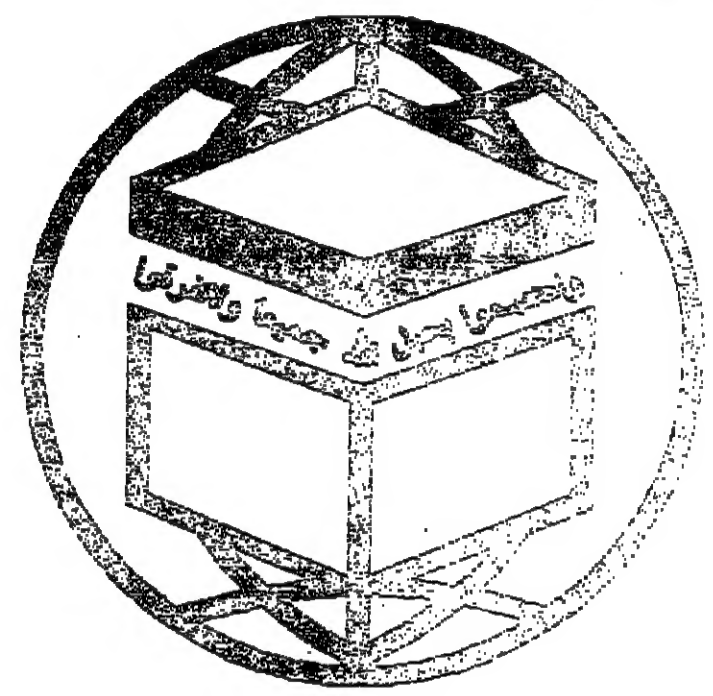
The Leader said that the Muslim situation is not something they are born with or chosen to be in but a situation imposed on them by the powers of global arrogance.

He said Muslims are bent on achieving real unity which, without ignoring legal principles, stems from a realization by different sects, Sunni or Shia, that they have a common enemy and that there is a need for them to try to come closer and reach a mutual understanding.

Urging the ulama of different Islamic sects to study and compare various schools of thought, the Supreme Leader stressed that there are different principles in the two sects which are similar in nature and that this fact will become clear after discussions.

With a glance at the international arena, one can see that a gigantic Islamic move is underway, he said adding that the world is moving toward accepting Islamic values. No matter the U.S.-led arrogant powers want or not, Muslims have woken up and are

(Contd on Pg. 7)



Minimum Possible Areas Should Form Basis of Muslim Unity



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — At the time when the arrogant powers have got rid of confrontations of bipolar international system, they may target Muslim world, President Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani warned Muslim countries in his address to the Sixth International Conference on Islamic Unity.

He urged the conference to set certain goals for the conference in

a bid to be able to evaluate the outcome of the conference in the future.

Unity will bring ample fruits, for instance, one of the most immediate results which the conference

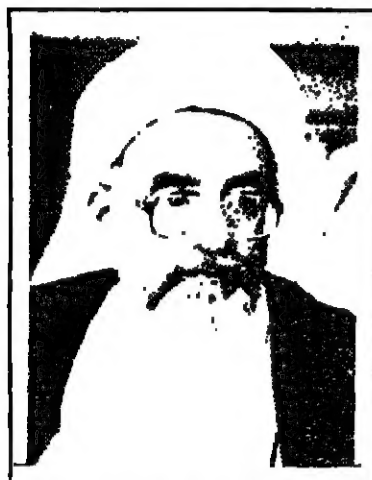
can yield is to create an Islamic bloc which we lack at present, he said.

The least that the unity conference

(Contd on Pg. 7)



# Muslim Ulema Laid the Foundation for Unity Movement



BI-AZAR-E SHIRAZI  
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "Thanks to the efforts of a number of renowned Muslim scholars, the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought has rendered significant services to the Muslim World," Hojjatoleslam Abdolkarim Bi-Azar-e Shirazi told the *Tehran Times*.

On the occasion of Unity Week, Hojjatoleslam Shirazi told the *Tehran Times* that the achievements of the Cairo Proximity House may be attributed to the relentless efforts of the Muslim ulema and constitute the backbone of the movement for unity aimed at bringing closer the various Islamic sects.

Speaking on the eve of Unity Week which started Monday, July 29, 1996, Hojjatoleslam Shirazi described briefly the different aspects of the movement for unity.

He started by saying that the movement for proximity of Islamic sects was born out of a common pain inflicted by the bitter experience of confrontation between the Ottoman Empire and the Safavid dynasty.

"Powerful Shia kings of the Safavid dynasty who ruled Iran for a long time and Sunni Ottoman emperors who dominated major parts of Europe and Asia could not see eye to eye such that fighting

victims of the bloody clashes between the governments of the two ruling powers," he said. The hojjatoleslam stressed that

din Assadabadi, Mohammad Abdo, Kavakebi, Iqbal Lahouri, Seyed Qoth, Abdol-Majid Salim, Hassan Al-Banna, Mohammad

a great revolution which was taken up by other Muslim leaders," Shirazi said.

He said that the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought has had several ups and downs due to changes in political and social conditions, but remains active in the movement for unity.

Hojjatoleslam Shirazi said that although enemies have for some time plotted against the activities of the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thoughts there has been no known serious sectarian clashes occurring between the Islamic sects.

"The fact points to the fruitfulness of its activities," he concluded.

He said the spirit of understanding and open-mindedness of one billion Muslims of the world as another indication of the success of the unity movement.

Hojjatoleslam Shirazi said that from the very start of his movement, the late Imam Khomeini also emphasized the need for cultivation of Islamic fraternity among Muslims and that the Imam devoted a major part of his life working for this end.

With the departure of the late Imam, the cause was taken up by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei who set up the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects.

As a member of the supreme council of the assembly, Shirazi said that holding conferences, exchanging dialogues, publishing books and magazines are among the various activities of the assembly.

He further urged the ulema to inform people on the obstacles that hinder proximity of the various Islamic sects, adding that arrogant powers who see restoration of

Muslim dignity as detrimental to their continued existence and those ignorant of Muslim objec-

(Contd on Pg. 7)



Sheikh Mahmoud Shaltout was a great Muslim scholar who joined the Association for Convergence of Muslims from the very beginning of its foundation. He took great strides for solidarity among Muslim schools of thought. When he became the head of Al-Azhar University in Egypt, he incorporated the Comparative Study of Shii Fiqh in the syllabus of the university. He further issued a historic fatwa allowing the following of Imami schools of thought which has been one of the foundations of unity among Muslim schools of thought.

although Christians came out victorious in the war and many Muslim territories were confiscated, Muslims learned the lesson that they ought to put aside their sectarian differences.

Rashid Reza were the forerunners of this reform movement.

Later the idea spread and was welcomed by Ayatollah Hossein Boroujerdi, Alameh Abdul-Hussein Sharaf Addin, Alameh

*From the very start of his movement, the Late Imam Khomeini also emphasized the need for cultivations of Islamic fraternity among Muslims and that the Imam devoted a major part of his life working for this end. With the departure of the Late Imam, the cause was taken up by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei who set up the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects.*

erupted between countries under the two ruling powers.

"Both Shia and Sunnis became

He said the idea was first grasped by the ulema of various Islamic sects, and that Jamal-Ad-

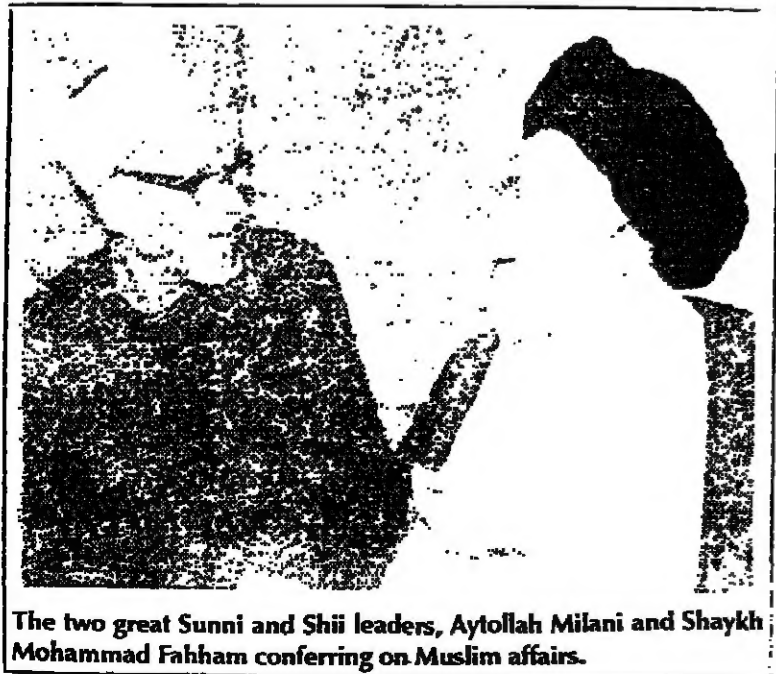
Mohammad Hussein Kashef Al-Gheta, he said.

"It was through the joint efforts of these Muslim ulema that Muslims from all across the Muslim world convened the Cairo Assembly for Convergence of Islamic Schools of Thought which meets on the sidelines of Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

"Following an exchange of works by Muslims from different sects, the ground was prepared for the Chancellor of Al-Azhar University, Sheikh Mahmoud Shaltout, to issue his historic fatwa," Hojjatoleslam Shirazi, a theology instructor in Iran's Al-Zahra University, said.

In his fatwa, Shaltout pronounced all Islamic sects as basically similar to each other and that every Muslim is free to follow the sect of his choice.

Shaltout's fatwa brought about



The two great Sunni and Shii leaders, Ayatollah Milani and Shaykh Mohammad Fahham conferring on Muslim affairs.



From left to right: Shaykh Hassan al-Banna (the founder and the first leader of Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt), Ali Moayyed (the representative of Zaydi Shias in Yemen), Abd al-Majid Salim (the great Faqih and former head of Al-Azhar), Amjad al-Zohawi (great leader of Iraqi Sunnis), Amin al-Hussein (Palestinian Muslims' leader), Shaykh Alusi (son of Alusi, the author of the renowned *Alusi Exegesis*), Mohammad Taqi al-Qomi (the founder and secretary general of the Association for Convergence of Muslims).

TEHRAN —  
The late Imam Khomeini  
played a great role in preparing the ground for  
unity among Muslims. As soon as the late leader of world Shias,  
late Ayatollah Boroujerdi came to know about the call for conver-  
gence of Muslims, he joined the movement with full enthusiasm.  
In all his letters and communications, he stressed unity among  
Muslims. He was so concerned about unity among Muslims that  
in the last few minutes of his life, he said: "Has Mr. Qomi (the  
founder of Association for Convergence of Muslims) gone to  
Egypt? Convergence of Muslims is a great service. I had a dream  
for bringing about understanding among Muslims and was deter-  
mined to write to Shaykh Shaltout to prepare a ground for remov-  
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# Imam Khomeini's Call to Unity Among Muslims



By late Hojatoleslam Seyed  
Ahmad Khomeini

TEHRAN — Following is an excerpt from late Hojatoleslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini's speech on the ideas of Imam Khomeini on unity among Muslims.

Studying the ideas of a person who himself was the harbinger of unity in his time and who succeeded in founding a divine system in Islamic Iran, will definitely pave the way for the followers of this line.

The divine nature of man is inclined towards monotheism. Man's wisdom and reason in all periods, so long as they are not contaminated by satanic temptations, are inclined towards unity and are against division and disunity.

The divine messenger from Adam to the Seal of the Prophets (S), laid the foundation of their call to religion on unity, monotheism and refutation of the manifestation of dualism, trinity, and hypocrisy in all their forms. Belief in monotheism is the final demarcation between Islam and blasphemy.

All philosophical, gnostic, moral and kalami schools of Islam follow a monotheistic approach to the universe and its components. Indeed, inclination towards true unity and monotheism is among the manifestations of belief in monotheism versus pluralism which is among the salient features of materialism and blasphemy.

The Holy Quran refers to the setting up of a united ummah as a prelude to a groundwork for setting up the best of ummah. Confrontation between the right and the wrong throughout the history in all its forms stems from the confrontation between monotheism and blasphemy. Imam

Khomeini says: "Disunity stems from Satan, unity in word and action is a blessing from Allah."

Unfortunately, the domination of the West over Islamic countries has blocked the development of human sciences on the basis of an approach inspired by divine revelation. Islamic approach in human sciences could open new horizons in social, political fields and offer practical solutions to socio-political problems.

Today most of sociologists and psychologists as well as educational experts in Islamic societies try to solve the problems of their societies through approaches that have their roots in materialistic schools.

Skirmishes, confrontations and disputes at international level are growing and the number of victims of such disputes increase every day. Side by side a great chunk of the resources of nations are funnelled into the purse of warmongers and those who divide nations in order to rule. History has proved that none of the materialistic approaches have so far been able to settle disputes and remove tensions. On the contrary, they have fanned the flames of crises, tensions and skirmishes.

Today all scholars who are familiar with the history of the nations are aware of the fact that nationalism, ethnicism and casteism are merely mirages and the cartographies of today stem from the fact that many people think such disciplines can save them.

Humanity has several times experienced the miraculous results of monotheistic approaches to life. If there is any stage of history which is defensible, the impact of monotheism can definitely be traced in that stage. Indeed, ineq-

uity, bloodshed and skirmishes began when man deviated from the natural, monotheistic right path that the divine prophets had preached.

The technological, materialistic advances of human society, on the one hand, and the moral deterioration of man on the other, indicate that man's salvation should be searched somewhere else. Yes, if man's materialistic advances are not used as a means for a divine ends, and the advance itself is taken as an ends, the end result will be the present deadlock. Which human problem has been solved by the man-made schools?

The issue of unity and the ways to materialize them cannot be discussed in isolation from the above-mentioned problems. We have witnessed that the international bodies, wet up to bring about unity among nations and governments and reduce tension, in most cases have not been successful. On the contrary, they have been instrumental in the creation of tension by big powers. Hundreds of unions and alliances that were formed among nations with the hope of bringing about cooperation and unity among them have been abrogated before yielding any result.

Since long time back several political figures or parties have raised the issue of unity among Muslims in Islamic societies and captured power on the basis of raising the issue of unity among Muslims. Hundreds of books and articles have been written on the unity among Muslims. But there is no practical step towards this end. In my opinion the roots of the failure in this regard should be searched in the basic issues. The lack of attention to basic issues will make all efforts unsuccessful.

The main problem lies in man and his belief. When the spirit of monotheism and the basic moral principles necessary for inclination towards unity are not prevailing in human societies, such efforts will remain fruitless. Unity and the necessity to maintain it is not merely a social recommendation or an ephemeral political tactic for safeguarding common material interests. It is not possible to have monotheistic mentality in belief but remain indifferent towards the fate of others in practice.

Is it possible to believe in unity but practice disunity? How is it that when the herald of monotheism reaches those who were frustrated with inequity and blasphemy, in the early days of Islam, they discard blasphemy, ethnicism, tribalism and family pride. Also it was also after the advent of Islam that all factors, causing disunity, vanished in the light of belief in God to the extent that best of Ummah comes to existence?

In a short time peoples and nations, irrespective of their nationality, geographical location etc., embrace the new faith. Why don't Muslims give due importance to the concept of Ummah that has been given a great deal of importance in the Holy Quran? Why do the concepts of nationality, geo-

graphy, historical background, etc. are given priority over the concept of Ummah?

In fact the only way to restore Islamic glory of the past is unity among all Muslim sects, forces and nations. We should concentrate on the analysis of factors that have prevented us from having a belief in the concept of Ummah and the factors that have created a rift among Muslims. Hence we must hold fast to the Holy Quran, the charter of guidance of the Ummah and the firmest pivot of unity among them.

The main problem is that most of Muslims including Muslim scholars have ceased to think that Islam is a comprehensive, integrated school of thought with inextricable set of values and teachings. Borrowing from other schools, specially in the fields of economy and politics has made the situation so difficult that it is almost impossible to realize the need for unity among Muslims, rendering all efforts fruitless.

If the spirit of the teachings of the Prophet (S) and the Holy Quran prevail in the society, unity in its highest possible form would be restored among Muslims. The society that the prophets aimed at setting up are far beyond the concepts of nation, government or ethnic groups that prevail today.

The understanding of these issues is not possible without relying on fundamental ideological bases. Unless those bases are consolidated in Islamic societies, it is not possible to attain any achievement in this regard. We should return to our Islamic culture without any borrowing from other schools. Efforts for unity should begin from ourselves.

Effort for unity and shunning disunity is an obligatory issue stemming from the belief in monotheism. The advocates of disunity are the followers of Satan. Unity can be materialized only when all Muslims reach the conclusion that

unity is an obligatory divine command.

Imam Khomeini succeeded in overthrowing the monarchy system in Iran because he himself believed in unity. In the struggle against the Pahlavi regime, Imam Khomeini believed in unity as a crucial factor. The first statement issued by him some 50 years ago indicated that he believed in unity. The statement begins with the Quranic verse, "Say: I exhort you only to one thing, that rise up for Allah's sake in twos and singly..." (34:46) The lion's share of the statement calls for unity among Ummah as a groundwork for uprising in the way of Allah.

In his book, *Forty Traditions*, Imam Khomeini while elaborating on the concept of unity, writes: One of the main reasons for the appointment of the prophets, besides setting up utopia, is unity in word and belief, eradication of inequity—which is detrimental to utopia and corruption of man. This great task cannot be materialized except through unity among the members of the Ummah. In a true unity, the members of the society will feel as if they are one person and the nation will become identical to one individual. All efforts will be carried out for fulfillment of one great divine goal which is in the interest of individuals and society. If such a unity and fraternity is materialized among the members of a group or nation, they can overcome all groups and nations who lack such a unity and fraternity. This is easily discernible in the history of wars in Islam and its great victories.

Muslims are bound to be friend and cooperative among themselves. Whatever factor consolidates this unity and fraternity is welcomed, whatever undermines it, is against the teachings of Islam.

To Imam Khomeini unity is a kind of blessing. To him unity is not possible without certain pre-

requisites: We should try to prepare a ground for this blessing to perpetuate; that is, we should try to adopt divine values and follow them, serve the people in the way of Allah and obey God, only then unity can be materialized, for disunity belongs to Satan and unity among Muslims is a divine blessing.

Imam Khomeini says: If all prophets gather in a single place, they will not be having any differences among themselves because they control their selves and obey God.

Imam Khomeini was of the opinion that only that kind of unity was durable that was based on indisputable principles.

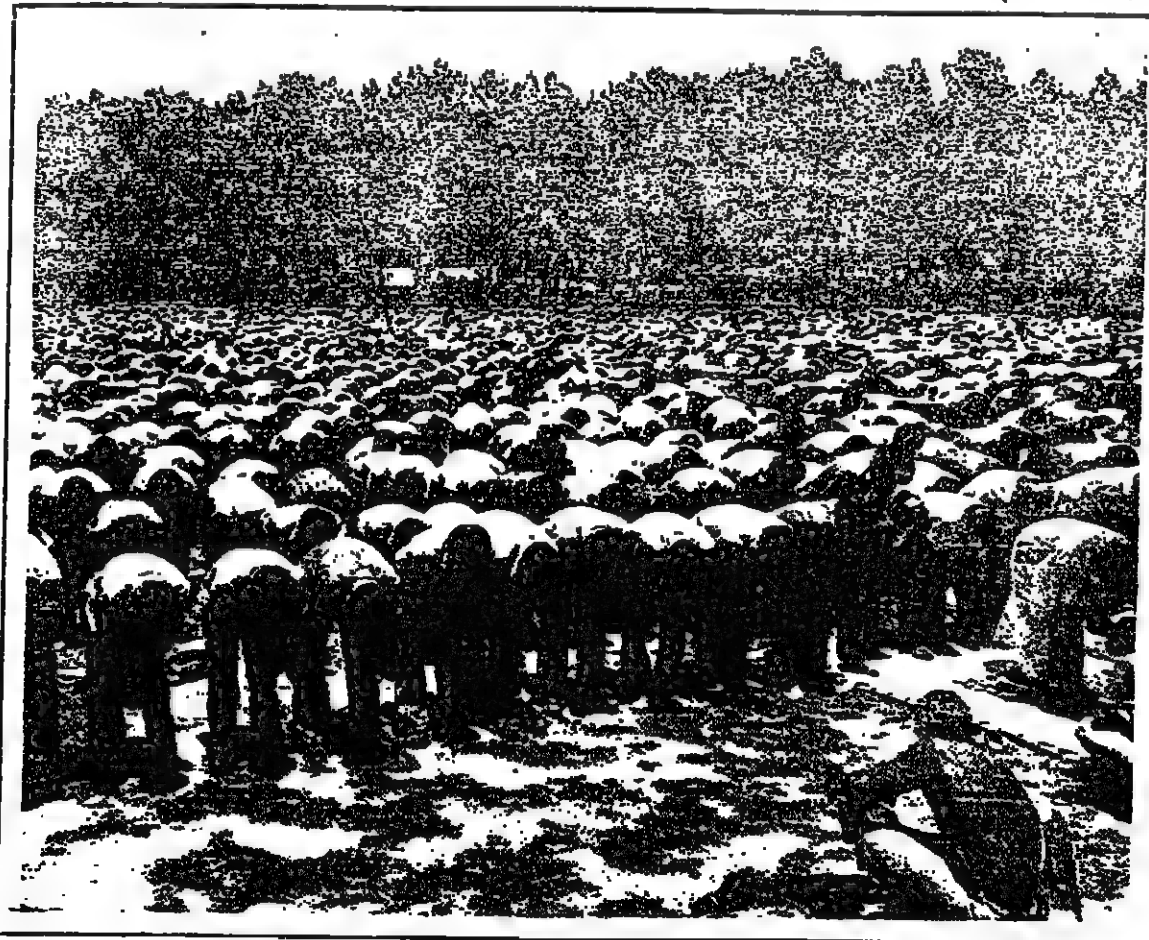
We should get united on the basis of Quranic teachings. Differences of opinion on one issue or another should not hinder our unity, but this is important to hold fast to the divine covenant. The prophets have not come to unify people in all affairs, they have come to unite them in the right path.

Indeed the secret of Imam's successful leadership in uniting the Iranian nation against the enemy was unity among nation on this issue. We come across this point in almost all his messages: If we remain committed to the command of God and practice God's commands and get united, without any doubt we will be the winner. The key to victory is in the hands of the nation. Nations should realize that the main factor responsible for its victory was the practice of Allah's command: "And hold fast to the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited..." (3:103).

Imam Khomeini believed that unity was a religious obligation for every citizen of Iran. He laid special emphasis on this issue so far as the officials were concerned.

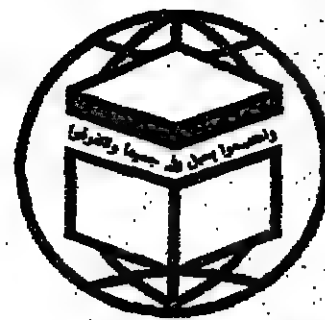
He was of the opinion that a heavy cost should be paid for unity. He was a pioneer in this regard.

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# Political Approach to Islamic Unity



Tehran Times Service

Political approach is not in fact the real approach to bring about unity among Islamic schools of thought, rather it deals with the unity of Muslims in general. The aim of the idea of unity of Islamic schools of thought is to attain a kind of unity at social and political level so that to resolve the present problems of the Muslims. However, unity of Islamic schools of thought would bring in its wake some social, political, cultural, and scientific developments among Muslims, for instance it may lead to a kind of scientific cooperation and research work on various fields of Islamic sciences which ultimately resulted in scientific growth.

## First Plan: Single Islamic Government

This plan is not a realistic plan and is possible only at imaginary level. To bring all people and Islamic countries under one platform and establishing one Islamic government require the unity of their political institutions, judiciary system, and monetary matters. This idea is proposed by those who have the ideal of forming a single Islamic government similar to the government of Muslims at early Islamic era. These people do not take into account the present problems in their analysis.

It is true that Muslims at the time of the Prophet of Islam and

the rightly guided had a single government and in the ninety years reign of Bani Umayyia and the period of Bani Abbas also they had strong central government.

Then in mid second century Hijrah, two independent governments were established in the western side of the world of Islam. In the eastern side of Islam also some factional governments like Saffarids came into being.

During the reign of Mansoor Davanaghi, the second ruler of Bani Abbas, Andolos came under the rule of Abdul Rahman.

Anyhow, in tenth century Hijri onward, three great powers were ruling over Islamic countries. These three powers were: Ottoman power (1516-1924) in Turkey, Safavid power in Iran, Moghuls in Indian subcontinent.

By the passage of time, these governments faced with splits and crises and limited their rules to a certain places. Then some Muslim thinkers tried to review the rule of the Califs, as in India and Egypt Khilafat movements started to meet such goal.

Sayed Jamaludin Asadabadi popularly known as al-Afghani followed up such idea, though it is not none as why did Jamaluddin try to call the heads of the Muslim countries to unity. Indeed, it requires a profound research work to find out the reason.

But there is no doubt that Seyed Jamal tried his best to review Islamic unity. Though his



wish never came true in his life time.

Anyhow, when we say that this

idea, that is, forming a single Islamic government in the world is an unrealistic idea we mean to say

that firstly Muslim rulers never agree to leave their seats. Secondly, Muslim nations are from different races, tribes, schools of thought, and have different languages, hence, they hardly agree to free themselves from nationalistic feelings. Thirdly, let us assume that Muslim nations agree to unite and form a single government, but colonial powers of the West and the East do not keep silence and try to suppress such idea.

For instance, super powers made their utmost efforts to prevent the influence of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in different Muslim countries such as Algeria, Sudan, Egypt, Bosni Herzegovina etc.

## Second Idea: Union of Islamic Republic

If by union of Islamic Republic it means a federal system of state similar to the former Soviet Union or federal states of America, then such system requires again a central government. There is hardly any difference between this idea and that of the first idea.

If by union of Islamic Republic it means each Muslim country form an independent Islamic Republic with their own flag, language, money and nationality but having united stand in foreign policy, economic and having special cooperation in the fields of industry and scientific activities, then such idea is realistic and is possible to work it out. Apparently the organizers of the Islamic Organization of Islamic Conference had such idea in their minds, through, except in certain cases, they were not hitherto successful. But if the representatives of the Islamic countries with higher knowledge in the fields of politics, economics, religious studies draft a comprehensive constitution then it can be hopeful.

But the problem is that some of the governments are not independent and taking any step they have to consult their bosses. Such problems are responsible behind the failure of the OIC.

## Third Idea: Single Leadership or Council of Leadership

This idea is supported by Iranian scholars. The founder of the Islamic Revolution, the Late Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei emphasize on this kind of leadership.

There are many other Islamic scholars and leaders through out the world who subscribe to such leadership. For instance the late Dr. Kalim Siddiqui in London, Ibrahim Zakzaki in Nigeria, Mohammad Hadi Awang in Malaysia advocate such idea.

## Fourth Idea: Agreements and Treaty

This idea is implemented between some Muslim countries. For example ECO is a treaty between three countries of Iran, Pakistan and Turkey and some other Muslim countries also joined this group.

As a matter of fact cooperation at different levels of economic, political, cultural and defense among Muslims, is emphasized in the Holy Quran and Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Mohammed (S). Thus, it is an Islamic duty to support such idea. But the only problem before such idea is that some of the Muslim countries are not independent and they may report all secrets of other members to the countries like America and Israel.

Congratulations to the world Muslims on the Unity Week

MULAVI MOHAMMAD ESHAQ MADANI:

## Muslims Should Hold Fast to the Divine Connection



Tehran Times Service

Following is the text of the speech of Presidential Advisor for Sunni Affairs, Mulavi Eshaq Madani, delivered at the 6th International Conference on Islamic Unity.

"If we take a positive look at the situation of Muslims in the world, we will realize that it is in a more advantageous position than in the past.

We have witnessed the downfall of the big enemy of Islam in our time—communism—which was once considered the number

one enemy of all religions. The fall of communism resulted in some 70 million people joining the Islamic nation and a rise in the number of Muslim countries.

Today, the West has realized that a dearth in religious values and beliefs in its society has created a spiritual vacuum and people suffer from the inability to grasp with reality.

On the other hand, today Muslims around the world have awakened. Wherever there is a majority of Muslims, an uprising that will

lead to the revival of Islam is a real possibility.

Today the futility of movements hostile to Islamic teachings is an accepted fact. The victory of the Islamic Revolution in the Islamic Republic confirmed that Islam is capable of ruling a society and that an Islamic political system is capable of achieving a prosperous life for them. The Islamic Revolution of Iran has proven that Islam is not the antithesis of development and civilization.

In the past, through erroneous teachings of the West, Muslims believed that *Ulamas* should not interfere in political affairs. But the Islamic Revolution of Iran, under the leadership of the Late Imam Khomeini and then by Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, marked the birth of a new epoch proving such teachings to be false.

Today the Islamic nation is heading towards a grand victory which is the revival of Islam and the success of the Islamic nation.

While it is true that the enemies of Islam spare no effort at preventing the people from attaining their goals, it is also a fact that the Islamic nation is capable of confronting enemy plots from all directions through unity.

If Shia and Sunni *Ulamas* join hands in unity, a cohesive and long-lasting cooperation among all Muslims in the world will be forged.

As the Holy Quran says, Muslims must hold fast to the divine connection. Preserving the divine connection is the basic principle of

Islam. It admits of no exception. In other words, it includes all Muslims regardless of sect.

If Muslim *Ulamas* propagate the real Islam to people everywhere and encourage them to hold fast to the divine connection, then the goal of unity for Muslims all over the world will become a reality.

Today there are but a few books which focus on the general principles of Islam. Writers of most religious books have emphasized on the Shia or Sunni schools as the two branches of Islam. This has led to ignorance on the true principle and reality of Islam.

This is not to preclude Shia and Sunni *Ulamas* from writing about their own sects. What I would say is that their top priority should be to emphasize the truth of Islam rather than stress their own interpretations.

Today, the policy that our *Ulamas* pursue widely differs from what they pursued in the past. The ultimate goal of *Ulamas* in the past was to defend the truth of Islam. Whenever they were confronted with differences they preferred to compromise rather than to insist on their own ideas.

Today, it is incumbent upon us to follow the path taken by past *Ulamas* and to give top priority to the true teachings of Islam and not those of the religious sect that we belong.

It is worth emphasizing that unity is attainable by all world Muslims only by holding fast to the divine connection."



# History of Prophet Mohammad (S) A Panacea for Muslim Solidarity

by DR. Kamal Koyeja Oloso

The anniversary of the birth of the Prophet (S) otherwise known as Mawlid, is celebrated by Muslims the world over on or shortly after the 12th day of the lunar month of Rabi-ul-Awal, the birth of Islamic Calendar. The occasion usually features the singing of the praise of the Prophet and lectures on his life. Just as Christmas was introduced into Christianity long after the exit of Jesus, Mawlidun Nabi was first celebrated by the Fatimids of Egypt in the 11th century CE. Conversely, the two festivals of Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha (the lesser and greater Beirams respectively), originated from the Quran and were observed by the Prophet (S), the earliest Muslims and indeed all Muslims the world over. Nevertheless, the Mawlid has been recognized in practice by the generality of Muslims as worthy of marking though it certainly of much less importance than the other two festivals.

The importance of Mawlid culminates in the opportunity it affords Muslims and indeed mankind, to reflect on the life and teachings of the Prophet whose birth is commemorated. The Quran admonishes thus:

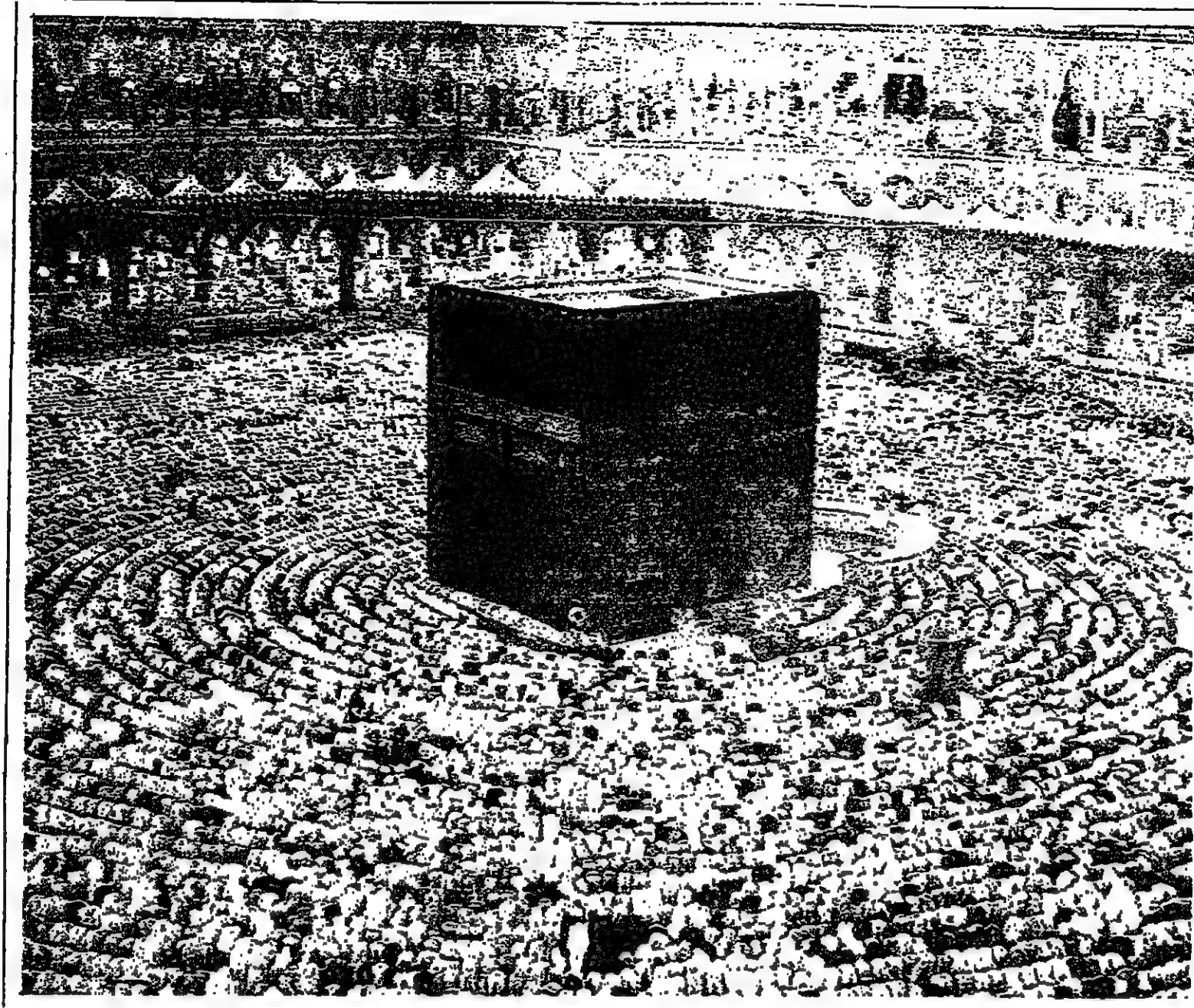
"Certainly, you have in the Messenger of Allah (Mohammad) an excellent exemplar for him who types in Allah and the Last Day and remembers Allah much."

It is in the light of the above that congratulate the organizers of the International Seminar for their vision in creating this unique opportunity for Muslims the world over to cast retrospective view on a life of the Holy Prophet (S) with a view to exploiting it for critical guidance and moral rejuvenation.

A meaningful Mawlid celebration must include a self-examination of ourselves, with a view to finding out the extent to which we have made the Prophet (S) the "mirror" through which we see actors for the emergence of a single Islamic community the world over.

Muslim solidarity today, stands at the lowest ebb when compared with what obtained within the Islamic Ummah.

Established by the noble Prophet Mohammad (S) over fourteen hundred years ago. The Muslims who constituted a formidable Ummah and composite virile force and power that broke Kufr frontiers in glory and pride are now subjected to disgraceful defeat and humiliation. Muslims are now massacred, robbed of their land and wealth, of their life and hope. Practically in every country and corner of the Muslim world, the Muslims are being de-Islamized and forced to convert to Kufr systems. They remain victims of injustice and aggression and are vilified and denigrated in the committee of nations. They are described as aggressive, destructive, lawless, terrorist, fundamentalist, fanatic, archaic and even anachronistic. Muslims are despised by



non-Muslims, whether developed or underdeveloped, capitalist or Marxist, Eastern or Western. Paradoxically too, the Muslim world itself is cancerous as axiomatically shown by its inner strife and division, its turbulence and self-contradictions, its wars and self-annihilation.

Although the Muslims count over a billion the world over, their territories are the vastest and the richest, their potential in human and material resources is the greatest and finally, their faith, Islam, is integral, beneficial, world-affirming and realistic, yet they now suffer all the perdition because they have refused to unite and allow Islamic solidarity to swallow their arrogance and self-opinionatedness.

Throughout the Muslim world, except in a few regions, the Muslim community is divided against itself. The colonial powers have successfully fragmented it into component parts set against one another. The boundaries of the Muslim states have been so defined as to create perpetual friction for every state with its neighbours. Political machination by the enemy continually exploits those areas of friction and creates cause for alienation and hostility. Internally, every Muslim nation-state is in turn divided against itself, its population being heterogeneous, and one group being assigned hegemony over the other groups by the colonial masters. No nation-state was given the time and peace, or the resources to integrate its

own citizenry so as to make them a single entity; and no two states were allowed to unite so as to constitute a greater whole. To make things still worse, the enemy has imported aliens into the Muslim World in order to guarantee perpetual strife between them and the natives; or converted the natives to a Western Christianity which necessarily implies their estrangement from their Muslim compatriots, or infused into non-Muslim natives a notion of their identity which sets them in conflict with the Muslims. Finally, the enemy has created hostile "foreign" states within the body of the Ummah to divert Muslim energy away from reconstruction and to drain it in futile wars, or to serve as bases should colonialism decide to reoccupy the land for the colonial powers' economic, strategic and political interests. No Muslim state is secure internally; and none is secure externally. Every Muslim government spends the greater part of its resources and energy on securing its own power within, and integrity without — and yet without avail.

Through out the Muslim World, except in a few regions where the enemy had found rulers ready to cooperate, colonial administration has destroyed all political institutions in the land. When the time came for colonial administrations to withdraw, they entrusted the power to the native elites who had already been subjugated and Westernized. But the

real power lay only in the military which was destined to grab it at the first opportunity. In the majority of cases, Muslims are ruled by the military because they are devoid of political formations capable of operating the government, or of mobilizing the masses for resistance, or leading them into constructive political action; or more simply, capable of acting in tandem with one another.

On the Economic Front, the Ummah is non-developed and backward. The overwhelming majority of its members everywhere are illiterate. Their production of goods and services is far below the need which is always satisfied by import of finished goods from the colonial powers. Even in the strategic necessities of life, the staple foods, clothing, energy and hardware, no Muslim state is self-sufficient. Every state would be exposed to famine if the colonial powers wish for any reason to stop their unfair trade with it. Everywhere, colonial interests have been creating consumerist desires and demands for colonialists' products, while the needs of Muslims for productivity, the colonialists seek, and they often succeed, to knock it out of the market.

When some industry is developed with the colonialists' help, it turns out to be one dependent upon colonialist raw materials, or finished components, which they alone supply, thus subjecting the industry to function at their mercy, to subserve their colonialist goals. In most cases, the new Muslim indus-

tries are not designed to meet the crucial needs, but those tangential needs created by colonialist intensive advertisement. Muslim agricultural self-sufficiency is their first enemy, since at this stage and for a long time to come, that is the necessary pre-requisite of Muslim resistance to any colonialist scheme. Everywhere, through false promise of better living in the cities, the lure of temporary jobs in speculative building-construction and consumer-goods industry, and exploitation by landlords and tax collectors, Muslim farmers are uprooted from their villages. They migrate to the cities to live in shanty towns dependent upon imported staple foods, and are ready to answer the call of any demagogue.

The oil bonanza which Allah found fit to grant to some Muslim countries has proven little of the *ni'mah* or favor it was supposed to be. Found mostly in scarcely populated lands, the new wealth compelled the governments to follow racist lines, to dissipate the wealth in artificial, "cosmetic" development of their lands. Indeed, the new wealth is so abundant that no such pursuits could exhaust it. Hence, it is channelled for "easy and secure" investment in financial markets of the non-Muslim World where it helps the enemies of Islam become stronger. Political instability in every corner of the Muslim World makes long term planning and investment too risky for any careful

investor. Thus, Muslim World areas endowed with potential for significant agricultural or industrial development remain devoid of funding capital; and the wealth which could develop these potentialities into actual prosperity for the whole Ummah is channelled elsewhere.

On the Religio-Cultural Front, the centuries of Muslim decay have caused illiteracy, ignorance and superstition to spread among Muslims. These evils have caused the average Muslim to recoil in the bliss of blind faith, to lean toward literalism and legalism or to surrender his spirit to his "shaykh". All this bred into him no small measure of vulnerability. When the modern world impinged itself upon him, his military, political and economic weakness caused him to panic. He therefore sought half-measures of reform which, he thought, would speedily recapture for him his lost ground. Unwittingly, he took to Westernization, lured by the successful example of the West and prompted by his Western or Westernized advisers. In areas under colonial administration, Westernization was ordered and promoted by every possible means at the rulers' disposal.

Well meaning or otherwise, Westernized Muslim leaders did not know that their programs would sooner or later undermine the Islamic religion and culture of their subjects. The connection between the manifestations of Western productivity and power and the Western views of God and man, of life, of nature, of the world, of time and history, was too subtle for them to observe; or in their hurry, to mind. A secular system of education was built which taught Western values and methods. Soon, it began to pour into society generations of graduates who were ignorant of their Islamic legacy. Their ignorance combined with suspicion of the guardians of the legacy, namely the ulama, who were well meaning despite their conservatism, literalism, legalism or mysticism. A gap began to develop within the ranks of the Ummah, dividing it into Westernizing seculars and opponents of secularization. The colonialist powers saw to it that the former became the decision-makers in society.

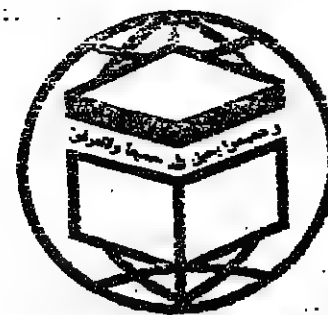
By the colonialists directly or by their native stooges, everything Islamic fell under attack. The integrity of the Quranic text, the genuineness of the Prophet (S), the veracity of his Sunnah, the perfection of the Shariah, the glories of Muslim achievements in culture and civilization — none of them was spared. The purpose was to inject doubt in the Muslim's confidence in himself, in his Ummah, in his faith, to undermine his Islamic consciousness, to subvert his Islamic personality, and thus to make him more subservient, lacking the spiritual stamina necessary for resistance. The colonialists and their stooges filled the Muslim's daily life with effects promoting Western culture, newspapers, books and maga-

(Contd on Pg. 6)

05.08.1996



# Unity Week of Prophet Mohammad (S) A Paragon for Muslim Solidarity



(Contd from Pg. 5)

zines, radio and television, cinema and theater, records and tapes, street posters and nude signs bombarded him daily with such effects. Muslim governments took pride in a new boulevard they opened in their capitals dotted with Western-style high rise office or apartment buildings; but they were not shamed by the squalor and degradation of the whole rest of their towns and villages, Westernized elites frequented public halls to watch or hear a movie, an opera, a concert or a drama, and sons and daughters read about them in books in their secular or missionary schools and colleges, without realizing their incongruity with everything else they thought or did. Those who completed their self-Westernization stood out more oddly against their Muslim environment and background. The integrity of Islamic culture and the unity of the Islamic style of life were shattered in their own persons, in their thought and action, in their homes and families. Western social institutions and customs were introduced with impertinence. Instead of raising themselves from their decay to the heights of virtue and societal efficacy envisaged for them by Islam, Muslim women began to hanker after the manifestations of Western decay: gradual nudity or *tabarruj*, economic independence aimed at individualist licence, egotistic pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of duties imposed by the extended family.

The way out is to cast retrospective view at the *sirah* of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) ruminate deeply over the solid *Ummah* he established, examine thoroughly the Islamic solidarity entrenched at his instance and avail ourselves the benefit of such solidarity in all its ramifications.

For example, if we look at the pillars of Islam as a whole it will be clear to us that the goal of each of them is to ensure unity, brotherhood, equality, justice and formidable cooperation. Through the doctrine of *Tawhid*, or the Unity of God Prophet Mohammad (S) brought vividly to Muslims the recognition of God as their creator, the Supreme Power, the Sole Enricher and Destroyer of life and that it is only by submitting to Him alone shall man be freed from servility to all other powers. Through *Salat*, or ritual prayer, *Zakat* or the obligatory charity, *Sawm* or fasting and *Hajj* or Holy pilgrimage, the Prophet (S) has succeeded in promoting brotherhood of mankind and human equality. The world which, before the Prophet (S) was divided into innumerable castes and creeds, tribes and nations, some claiming nobility for themselves and condemning others to the position of serfs and chattels was welded together by the cable of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity demonstrated in their common belief in one indivisible God; praying together shoulder to shoulder in the same holy mosque, sharing together proceeds of their individual toils; enduring together pangs of hunger and thirst in their holy month; and

clustering together in the same holy dress of *thum* during *Hajj* on their holy plain of Arafat.

The Prophet never discriminated among his companions: he appointed Bilal, an Abyssinian slave the *Mu'dhdhin*, that is, the caller to the Muslim ritual prayers while Salman, the Persian was his chief war adviser. Indeed the Prophet (S) cemented the ties of brotherhood among the Muslims of Madinah who were called *Ansar* and *Muhajirun*, i.e. emigrants from Mecca. The brotherhood was indeed unique in the history of the world. It was a solidarity which hinged on fellow-feeling and love based on absolute fraternity. For example, Sa'd ibn Sabi of the *Ansar* said to his fellow brother, Abdur-Rahman ibn A'w, one of the *Muhajirun*, I am the richest man amongst the *Ansar* I am prepared to share my property half and half with you. I have two wives, I am ready to divorce one, and after the expiry of *Iddah*, you may marry her.

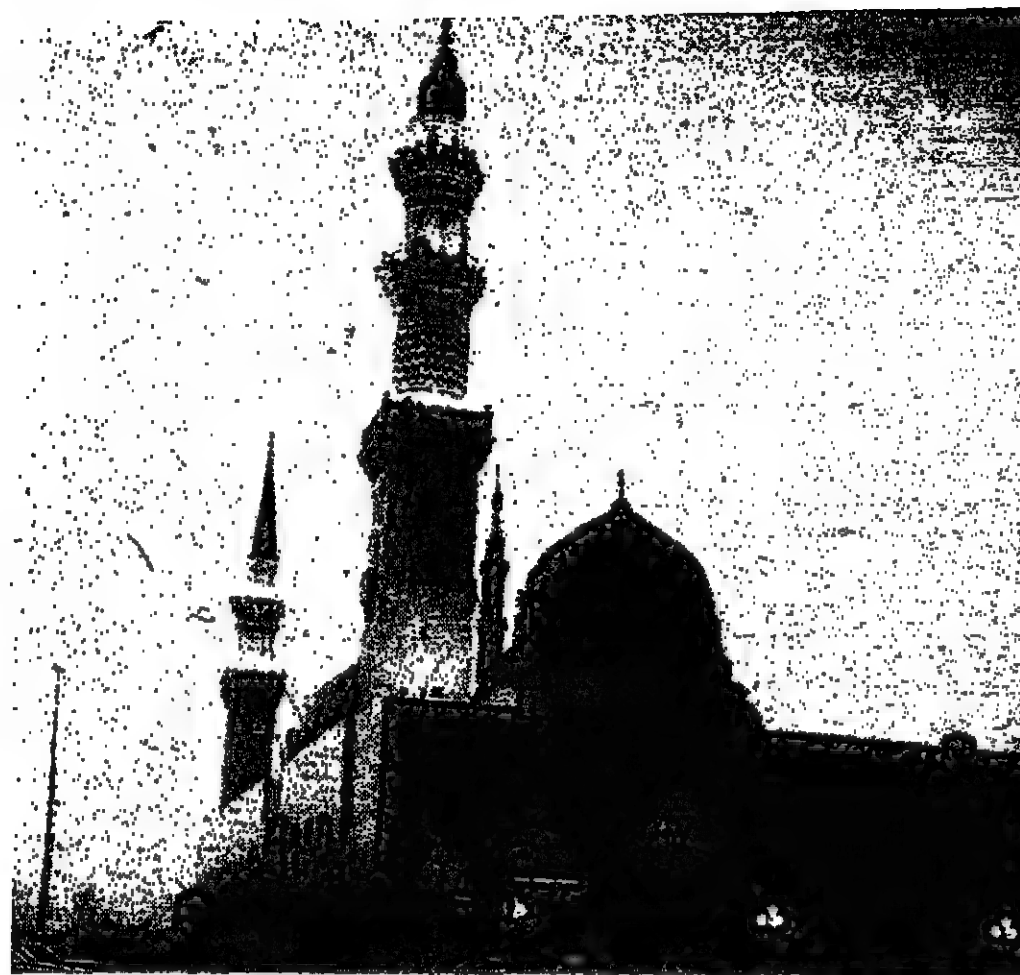
But Abdur-Rahman ibn A'w was not prepared to accept anything; neither property nor home. So, he blessed his brother and said: "Kindly direct me to the market so that I may make my fortune with my own hands." The helpers were extremely generous

amongst them.

These are not mere solidarity expressions of the spirit of selflessness which the Holy Prophet had infused in his followers. It was a common trait of their character which they had developed under the influence of Mohammad (S). So strong and cordial was this relation that it surpassed even the relationship of blood. When either of the two persons who had been paired as brothers, passed away, his property was inherited by his brother-in-faith. This practice continued till the following verse was revealed and the regular rule of inheritance was allowed to take its usual course:

*And those who believed afterwards and emigrated and strove hard along with you: these also are of you: and the kindred by blood are nearer unto one another in Allah's decree. Verily Allah is of everything the Knower.*

The atmosphere of solidarity and feeling created by the Holy Prophet produced very healthy results. Ago-long enmities amongst the different tribes, especially those that had existed between the A'w and the Khazraj were almost forgotten amongst the converts from those tribes. "Acceptance of the faith required that as Muslims they should acknowledge not only



The shrine of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

hearts together, and so ye became by His favour brethren, and ye were on the brink of an abyss of the fire, and He rescued you therefrom.

For Muslim solidarity to be a reality again in our own time both the Arab world and the A'jam world must unite as brothers in faith and partners in progress working in concert and resolute collectively to return to the pristine period of Islam under the leadership and tutelage of the Prophet Mohammad (S). In this regard, the Arab world has roles and responsibilities while the 'A'jam world too has roles and responsibilities.

The Arab world from which the Prophet Mohammad (S) emerged has unlimited wealth and power. It has petrol which is the life stream of industrial and military power. It is a link between Europe and the Far East and is the pulsating heart of the entire Muslim world to which the whole world turns, with ever-lasting affection and devotion, for its religious and spiritual needs. Its significance is also heightened by the possibility of its becoming a theater of a third world war if care is not taken. It has in it the Arabian peninsula which is unique in being the religious and the spiritual nerve-center of the Muslim world, where the annual assemblage of the Muslims of the entire world for *Hajj* has no parallel anywhere. It also has wells that produce almost the greatest quantity of oil in the world.

There is a world of difference between the point of view with which the West look at the Arab world and that with which the A'jam looks at it. Even the way a nationalist Arab regards it is quite different from the way a Muslim from another part of the world, i.e. A'jam does. To the Muslims in general, the Arab world is the cradle of Islam, a refuge for humanity, a tower of light and a

veritable potential source of Muslim leadership. The A'jam believes that Mohammad (S), the Prophet of Islam is the soul of the Arab world, the cornerstone of its prestige and the title of its glory. Without Mohammad (S) this land, in spite of its riches and wealth of resources, will be no more than a picture without color or body without spirit. It is Mohammad (S) alone who brought the Arab world into being. For the Arab world to sustain and retain its leadership of the Muslim world, even after the demise of the Prophet (S), it has to cling to and follow to the letter of the Quran and the Sunnah both of the which legacy the Prophet (S) bequeathed to us all as in the spirit of the following divine stipulation:

*And obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not dispute (with one another) lest you lose courage and your strength departs and be patient. Surely Allah is with those who are patient.*

The Arab world should once again strive for the golden era of Islam, do exactly what the Prophet (S) did to enhance solidarity, and maximum confidence and cooperation of the Ummah which is composed of the Arab and the A'jam.

Today, there is nothing wrong legally for the Arab world to concede to and even copy from the 'A'jam world what the latter has excelled it in doing. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran under the able leadership of its dynamic spiritual leader, al-marhum, Ayatollah al-Khomeini has returned the lost glory of the Muslims through an Islamic Revolution which held spell bound the enemies of Islam the world over. This is a feat that has shamed the West and its allies and which is second only to the victory of the noble Prophet Mohammad (S). It therefore behooves the Arab world to cooperate fully with the leader of the 'A'jam world which the Islamic

Republic of Iran is and make such cooperation the springboard for the type of the universal solidarity which the *sirah* of the Prophet (S) symbolizes.

"Uthman, this key is yours, take it. This is the day of recompense for obligations and pledges fulfilled. This key will remain with you for ever nobody can take it from you unless he takes it unjustly with a cruel hand.

The above also epitomizes by implication the vesting of the administration of the holy mosques of Makkah and Madinah in the rulers of Saudi-Arabia. The best other Muslims could do is to cooperate and assist them in this onerous religious task to the glory of the Muslims the world over. If the Arabs hesitated to accept leadership of the Muslim Ummah and feared to shoulder its great responsibilities, the darkness and ignorance of contemporary life would not diminish. And to avert this, let there be an Islamic Solidarity of the Arab and the A'jam on the principle of: *Help you one another in righteousness and piety but do not help one another in sin and transgression and fear Allah. Verily Allah is severe in punishment.*

Once again, I thank Allah, *subhanahu wa ta'ala* for this wonderful opportunity and beseech Him to forgive me my trespasses and reward you all for your patience and tolerance. May He continue to make the Prophet Mohammad (S) our model of conduct and bless his soul, that of his household and all who follow his guidance perpetually till the day of judgement.

As-Salamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullah.

Congratulations to the world Muslims on the Unity Week



to their brothers-in-faith. They once approached the Holy Prophet with the request that their orchards should be distributed equally between the Muslims of Madinah and their brothers from Makkah. But the Prophet was reluctant to put this heavy burden upon them. It was, however, decided that the refugees would work in the orchards along with the helpers and the yield would be divided equally

the spiritual but temporal authority of Mohammad (S) and, holding subordinate every distinction of race and kindered while regarding each other as brothers." The Holy Qor'an refers to this solidarity as a great boon:

*And hold ye fast, all of you, to the cord of Allah, and be not divided, and remember Allah's favor unto you, in that ye were enemies, and He joined your*



## Unity Among Muslims



Thousands of Muslim worshippers perform the Friday prayer at the entrance of the Al Aqsa Mosque in Salt-ul-Islamiyyah.

(Contd from Pg. 7)

### UNITY...

solve man's problems. They just create problems for the world of Islam. The renowned philosopher and poet, Iqbal Lahori says, "The world powers are like thieves looking for the graveyards to steal shroud." Here he refers to oppressed nations as dead.

I have a suggestion and hope Shia and Sunni scholars would think about it. The obstacles which hinder a dynamic Sunni-Shia unity are of two kinds: some are related to ulema and some to the public.

Muslim ulema should discuss doctrinal problems among themselves and decide about the solutions. When the sects and schools decide to compromise, this is not an easy task. Until recently, the followers of various sects did not even think of unity. Different schools have differences on minor issues. We should make preparations to compromise on minor issues. After we reach a compromise, we should try to convince the public to follow the ulema.

The reason we have thought of the unity among Islamic schools of thought is that we want to achieve our goal as soon as possible. The world of Islam needs unity among its schools of thought. All Muslims belonging to all Islamic schools of thought should coordinate their stands among themselves.

The world of Islam today needs unity among Muslims in order to

*Congratulations to the world Muslims on the auspicious birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)*

take care of their interests. Our unity should not be limited to mosques and theology schools, it should bypass geographical boundaries. Islamic countries suffer from political, economic, social and cultural problems. If the Islamic countries and Islamic leaders get united, we will recover our past glory.

(Contd from Pg. 2)

### MUSLIM ULEMA...

tives scattered abroad are the main obstacles hindering materialization of Muslim unity.

He further called on the people not to bruise the feelings of others who believe in other sects and not to provoke others in this regard.

"When in Medina, the Holy Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (S) destroyed a mosque which was a source of discord among Muslims," he reminded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### MINIMUM...

ence can bring about is to unite different parties and forces together to boost cooperation among themselves. The unity conferences is a good venue for exchanging ideas and hammering out differences and removing tensions among the Muslims.

What Muslims need today is restoring their real power, the president stressed in his speech.

Commonalities among Muslims can be a good point from which they can embark on their stride towards unity. Muslim nations, Islamic schools of thought and Islamic governments have certain commonalities and those who want to cooperate with each other should emphasize and work on the common aspects, President Rafsanjani added.

Muslims should stress on their common aspects for setting out short-term, long-term regional and universal goals, he said, call-

ing the conference to set out a working group to find out vulnerable points and pin point certain goals on which the Muslim countries can cooperate.

He further stressed that the task is a technical one which requires psychological and sociological knowledge.

The President said that the Muslims should take lessons from the history highlighting common points and shunning differences.

Whenever they get united they find their real glory and as they disunite they lose their strength, President Rafsanjani noted.

The president warned against absolutism and urged the Muslims to follow up the commonalities and avoid discord.

He urged the conference to formulate certain principles and set up executive and supervisory commissions to monitor the work on unity.

The enemies of Islam are bent on to prevent materialization of unity among the Muslim ummah, of course it is not possible for more than 50 Muslim countries with 1.2 billion population to act as a united entity in the short-term, President Rafsanjani said.

However, we can focus and emphasis on our basic issues within a limited area, he added.

Today telecommunications development has on the one hand paved the way for unity and on the other has been abused to further discord among different nations, he stated.

Prevailing situation on the Muslim world is an indication of social immaturity among Muslims. For instance, the Palestinian plight is an indication of disunity and immaturity among Muslims.

Undoubtedly the potential power of the Muslims is much more than the factual one.

The existence of an entity like the Zionist regime at the heart of the Muslim world is a clear threat to the interests of Muslims, requiring due attention to liberation of Palestine, President Rafsanjani stated.

It is a basic problem for Muslims to have no consensus on such an important issue, he said, adding even the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) lacks such a consensus and that due to the members' self-interest motives great part of their resources is plundered by outsiders.

He underlined the need for the Muslim countries to be realistic in their day to day life. For instance, the plight of Bosnia-Herzegovina is a good field on which Muslim countries can have close cooperation, he underlined.

Today, the Muslim world is confronting Western imperialism which is out to tarnish its image through accusing Muslims of terrorism and kidnapping.

Through attributing terrorism to Muslims, the arrogant powers try to undermine the strength of the Muslims.

The enemy has found out that there are common ideas among different Muslim countries like Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Pakistan wherein there is a belief in the sovereignty of Islam. Thus, they try to weaken the idea. Muslims should prevent materialization of the enemies' plots through their awareness and vigilance, the president concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### MUSLIMS...

becoming more alert. For centuries, the arrogant

powers and the enemies of Islam had kept Muslims backward. There is no doubt today that Muslims are moving toward restoration of their dignity, the enemy is out to attack them, the Leader said.

He warned against discord among Muslims and said that the enemy is determined to fan the flames of tension and dispute among different Muslim sects, school of thoughts and nationalities.

Wherever Muslims are living, the enemy is present working for sowing discord among them, he underlined.

Our main objective is to restore unity among different Mus-

lim groups and sects. Muslims should vigilantly identify those who sow discord among them through exaggeration of differences and disputes.

The move toward unity will bring its fruits if Muslims act vigilantly and restore their dignity and self-esteem, the Leader felt confidence.

We do not want other sects to give up their particular idea or follow the teachings of other sects, he said adding, we say that commonalities among Muslims are much more than their differences and they should work together to remove misunderstandings, the Leader said.

When our enemies stress on the differences we should emphasize on our common beliefs to prevent the enemies from exerting pressure on us. The enemy has not stopped its activities for creating discord among Muslims.

Muslims, Sunnis and Shias, should be careful and make their utmost to bring different Islamic sects closer to each other.

The richest culture of the world from the very beginning belonged to the Muslims, he said calling on Muslims to shun differences.

Muslims should know that if they get united they will form an Islamic bloc against the enemies, the Leader concluded.

(Contd from Pg. 3)

### IMAM...

According to Imam Khomeini, unity was not limited to a nation but it has infra-national dimensions. He believed that all the oppressed of the world should get united against the oppressors. All Muslim countries should get united against the enemies of Islam, Shias should get united with the Sunnis, all Islamic sects should get united within the framework of Islam and the nations should get united with their governments while safeguarding Islamic principles and values.

On national unity Imam Khomeini was of the opinion that unity should be considered by all strata as the first step towards victory. He constantly emphasized on the unity between universities and seminaries as the vanguards of awareness in the society.

According to Imam Khomeini the following are the prerequisites for unity:

- \* Self-purification and adopting spiritual values for self and the near ones.

- \* Tolerance, defending freedom of thought, supporting political, cultural groups that have a firm belief in the fundamental principles of Islamic society.

- \* Belief in the miraculous role of unity in settling intricate political, social problems.

- \* Awareness of the role of

hypocrites and temptation of the advocates of disunity.

- \* Commitment to principled stands and defending rational dogmas and values while giving due weight to comprehensive unity.

- \* Taking into account the basic differences between the research methodologies in universities and seminaries in order to find a common language for both in understanding the problems of the society.

- \* Finding out commonalities and shunning differences in basic principles through scientific discussion and debate.

- \* Revitalization of monotheistic culture and unity in Islamic societies as well as the symbols and factors of unity, for most of Islamic principles are based on this philosophy. Some of the examples include Hajj, Friday Prayer, Cooperation for helping the Muslims, Injunction of Good and Prohibition of Evil and so on.

- \* Teaching the Muslims of the past Islamic civilization and the reasons for the collapse of Islamic civilization over the recent centuries.

- \* Efforts to spread Islamic cultural values the basis of self-confidence and rejection of West-toxication.

- \* Fighting superstition and removing factors that have entered our religion but create disunity among Muslims.

- \* Attempts to bring about unity among the words and deeds of the advocates of unity among Muslims. It entails coordination among the advocates of unity in their policies so as to win the support of the masses for a policy even if that policy is against their values.

In practice Imam Khomeini defended the right of the Palestinian Muslims as a focal point of unity among Muslims in their struggle against U.S.-Israeli expansionism. Imam Khomeini demonstrated sacred love of all Muslims to Prophet Mohammad (S) in his decree on the *Saranic Verses* of apostate Salman Rushdie. The event was converted to a scene for unity among Muslims against the enemies. It also created awareness among Muslims throughout the world.

The Islamic Revolution and its achievements have no place for any Muslim to forward any excuse. The achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic movements in other parts of world bring to home to every Muslim that a few pure Muslim can defeat a large number of non-Muslims.

The Late Imam Khomeini in critical stages of the struggle taught us that the number and the material calculations are not determining factors in struggle between the right and the wrong.

If Muslims have realized that the only remedy to problems and removal of backwardness is return to Islamic identity, we should not worry about our future.

Let us become the harbingers of this holy jihad. This is painful to see that the followers of the Prophet Mohammad (S) with a great population and rich resources plus an exceptional situation should suffer from disunity and that the enemies enjoy over our agony. The Muslim ummah has been the standard-bearer of civilization while today others plunder our resources and make mockery of us.

Today the book of Allah without a slightest commission or omission is available to all Muslims, the Sunna and teachings of the Holy Prophet (S) are our torch and guidance.

The Qibla, single motto, prayer, and hundreds of Islamic rites are common to all Muslims. These factors can become the pivots of unity for setting up an exemplary united Ummah. People are not to blame for the lack of unity among Ummah. The intellectuals, ulema and rulers of Islamic countries should perform their duties and undertake their mission at this critical juncture in the history of Islam.

This is a blunder of some of the Muslim rulers that they sign pacts with the enemies of Islam instead of winning the support of the masses and other Muslim countries. History is an eloquent witness to the fact that such rulers will face deadlock ultimately.

The U.S. and Israel will not be satisfied unless they raise Islamic countries to the ground. Instead of relying on such shaky pacts, which remain valid so long as they protect the interests of the usurpers, Muslim countries should rely on Islamic covenants with their brethren. Let us revive the memory of united ummah.

Governments, publishers and film producers that advocate disunity among the Ummah for safeguarding their sectarian interests are seriously mistaken. The enemy will not spare any Muslim sect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran extends its hands of unity towards any government or nation that gives priority to the interests of the Muslims over those of the enemies of Islam.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

### LATE IMAM...

the Holy Quran. Shake hands in friendship with your fellow believers in any country and from any race, for the great Islamic faith has called all of us "brothers." If, by the grace of God, this spirit of brotherhood-in-the-faith becomes a part of each of us we will one day wake up to see that Muslims are the world's greatest power. God willing, this brotherhood may become a reality soon.

Those who want to widen the gap between Shias and Sunnis are neither. They don't even have anything to do with Islam. A true believer in Islam will not aggravate differences at a time when unity is essential to victory. Big powers know that Muslim unity and brotherhood is a big obstacle in the realization of their plots. For this reason, they work hard at sowing discord among Muslims.

You should remind Islamic nations that we are all brothers and will always be. Our interest is their interest. We should defend Islam and the Quran. Tell them any difference that is exaggerated will work to the interest of the enemies of Islam—more importantly the United States.

Do not listen to mischief mongers. Anybody who causes discord among Muslims inspires enemies and defeats the cause of Islam.

We are not saying Sunnis should convert to Shia or vice-versa. The message behind Unity Week is that Muslims everywhere should unite and solve their differences.

05.10.11549



## Muslims' Independence Will Materialize Through Unity

Tehran Times Service

The following is the text of an interview held in 1991 between the Tehran Times and the Secretary General of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects, Hojjatoleslam Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani.

**Unity of the Islamic Ummah has its roots in the basic principles of Islam.**

TEHRAN — "Islam recommends all Muslims to safeguard their independence and the independence will be materialized through unity of the Islamic Ummah," Secretary General of the World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects, Hojjatoleslam Vaez-Zadeh Khorasani told the Tehran Times.

He underlined that the unity of the Islamic Ummah has its roots in the basic principles of Islam, in which the majority of the Muslims believe.

The differences among Muslims in the past severely undermined the Islamic unity and paved the way for the domination-seeking powers to secure their footholds in the Islamic countries, he said.

Calling the Islamic Revolution

an epoch-making event, the hojjatoleslam added that, following the victory of the Islamic Revolution,

**Religious intellectuals should guide their fellow Muslims in the path of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and his Infallible Household (AS).**

Iran achieved political independence and demonstrated its ability to achieve economic self-reliance as well.

Expressing regret over differ-

ences among Muslims, he outlined foreign and domestic factors hampering materialization of unity among Muslims. He underscored that sectarian fanaticism of some

Muslims is one of the key factors in this regard. "No religious leader has advised his followers to defend their standpoints through prejudice and hostility," he added.

Meanwhile, he stressed, lack of awareness and sufficient information about other religious sects have also created some obstacles to achieving Islamic unity.

Conflicting policies adopted by

the former rulers in the world of Islam as well as establishment of rival dynasties in the past centuries were also among other obstacles in the way of Islamic unity.



VAEZ-ZADEH

He viewed racism as another factor which creates rifts among Muslims. The hojjatoleslam said that some foreign powers seek to create discord among Muslims by bringing up racial issues.

Asked to comment on the objectives of the assembly,

**Muslims should not prefer their sectarian interests to the interests of Islam in order to safeguard their religion.**

Khorasani said that the ultimate goals sought by the Assembly are to eliminate misunderstandings



and differences among several Islamic sects, to prepare the groundwork for further cooperation among religious leaders and, finally, to create a political-cultural unity among Muslims.

He concluded by saying that Muslims should not prefer their sectarian interests to the interests of Islam in order to safeguard their religion.

Meanwhile, he called on religious intellectuals to enhance their knowledge of different religious sects and guide their fellow Mus-

lims in the path of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) and his Infallible Household (AS).

## Islamic Unity From the View of Shaikh Shaltut

Tehran Times Service

THE main characteristic of a praiseworthy society, according to Islamic doctrine, lies in the unity of its members. The first evidence of this found in the Islamic literature is observed in the prayers of the noble grandfathers of Moslems, Hazrat Ibrahim (Abraham) and Ismail (Samuel) when they were erecting the walls of the holy shrine, Ka'aba, in Mecca.

The Holy Quran relates that this noble father and son prayed to Allah by saying: "O God, let us be among those who are Moslems (submitted to Your Will) and let us have progeny who also surrender (to You alone)." They thus asked that their Lord to grant them an opportunity to wholly submit to the divine commandments so that they would never tread the path of worldly desires. They also prayed to Allah that He place their offspring among the faithful (those who have submitted to God's Will). This sets forth the main characteristic of the Moslem Ummah: a nation surrendered to Allah and His divine rules. All those who claim to follow the path of the Prophet Ibrahim should then base their society and social relations on "submission to God's Will". Unity around the axis of Islam is the cornerstone of an Islamic society. It is such a characteristic, namely faith in God, that paves the way for the individual and society toward development and edification. This faith will stimulate them to follow a path of a decent and honorable life, avoiding the misery and wretchedness of corruption and sin. The individuals in such a society will then cooperate fully with one another in performing decent acts and are compassionate toward one another.

The very foundation of society in Islam is, therefore, resting on the unity of people in faith and action and this, as discussed above, can be easily deduced from the prayers of Hazrat Ibrahim as he was laying the fundamentals of a faithful community.

When man had assumed a high degree of intellect and his understanding had developed, enabling him to embrace an exhaustive school of thought, God, the Almighty, sent him the ultimate, sublime and the most complete of the Divine religions, Islam, through the Holy Prophet and revealed to man as many verses and commandments as possible for guidance. This religion then became a negation of racial and national boundaries that many human communities had chosen as the base for their social organizations.

Doing away with all sources of dispersion, difference, rivalry and enmity, Islam drew the attention of its followers to a sublime doctrine that overshadows all such prejudices and causes of separation. In Islam it is only piety that becomes the

ultimate objective of man. Thus the main motto of this divine religion is worship of God and submission to His Will alone. The unity of all human races and their unity in thinking and worship is a natural outcome of the belief in Islamic teachings. Islam has called on its followers "to avoid trespassing the bounds of God and be aware that He created you of one origin". It further calls on the faithful to submit to the verses of God (revealed in the Quran) and stresses that those who do surrender to God's commandments will never be stricken with fear and grief. This sets forth the basis of unity for human beings. According to the Quran we will be able to prevent deviation, origins of regret, sadness and fear only if we stick to the divine code of piety. At the same time while drawing the people's attention to unity, the Holy Quran warns them against all causes of disunity and separation and prohibits the faithful from "choosing friends from among non-Moslems". It says sternly that Moslems should not look for friends among the non-believers because the latter will miss no chance to harm them and wish to bring affliction upon Moslems.

"Do not take friends," says the Holy Book of Islam, "from among those who have no faith in the truth that has been revealed to you," adding that all those who befriend non-believers are to be considered belonging among them.

A glance at Islamic history reveals that great afflictions have befallen the Moslems only when they have turned their backs on these divine teachings and shown a tendency to make friends with non-believers, thus becoming divided among themselves. In contemporary history also Moslems have lost their resources to foreigners and have become dispersed, to the effect that they have endured a humiliating state imposed on them by the enemies of Islam. It is quite regrettable that the Moslems are now leading a life in which there seems to be no basis of unity and no ideals to unite them. And this results from an out-right negligence of the divine path to unity, that is, the faith in Islam.

It is now time to reclaim our own identity, our Moslem identity shaped by our unity in an Islamic community. The Quran has urged the Moslems to "hold on fast to the rope of God and never become dispersed." This is the base of the divine revelations. The "Rope of God" is certainly the Holy Book revealed to the Prophet to prevent people from falling into the pitfalls of corruption and sin. Corruption and sin prevent people from performing their obligations as the "vice-gerents of God" on earth. One's faith is accepted by God only when one avoids surrendering to lust and worldly desires and any desires motivated by sectarian prejudices that promote disunity. Such prejudices will ultimately

cause deviation from God's path and will lead people to where they will easily fall prey to the plots of enemies. When Moslems become divided, their enemies unite against them and will ultimately gnaw at the very roots of the Islamic community.

The Moslems should make all possible efforts to unite and for this they need to do away with any and all non-Islamic beliefs that have been introduced into their faith by hereditary and distorting means.

Islam is the religion of unity: unity in faith, action and code of living. This can be easily deduced from a review of the Holy Book, the Quran. All the affliction that has befallen us today is but a result of a mental deviation caused by the misunderstanding of religious principles.

It is then obligatory and the duty of us all, especially the religious scholars, to purge the religion of God of any trend of thought and practice that is incompatible with the Islamic code.

Efforts should be taken to introduce the truths of Islam in their purity and discard the un-Islamic issues that have permeated it, so that all we say, write and do be in accord with the Islamic doctrine. The ultimate outcome of this will be the curing of the ills of the Moslem community which have befallen it at present.

One of the most important things that should be carefully examined is the formation of a sound economic policy that can meet the demands of Moslems through relationships with Moslems themselves. Such a healthy economic organization, based on Islamic unity, will be able to block the exploitative powers from seeking footholds in Islamic lands under the pretext of economic development. Once united, the Moslems should also, aside from the establishment of a joint economic corporation, undertake efforts for the formation of a well-equipped military force under a joint command. Such a military power would of course be dedicated to the repulsion of the aggressions of Islam's enemies and the liberation of the oppressed from the clutches of the exploitative powers. This immense force, which will have the support of the all the faithful, will then serve as the best means of achieving peace and security and, as the Holy Quran puts it, will be able to "frighten the enemies of God."

The aforementioned joint efforts and other similar steps will set up the framework of social unity among the world's Moslems. It is quite regrettable that the colonial powers are continuing their plots, amidst the indifference of Moslems, to prevent any such unity among them. Still one can cherish hopes for a better future for those around the globe whose hearts are beating for freedom and those who are prepared to sacrifice for their sublime goals.

## Unity Among Muslims

By Mulari Nazir Ahmad Salami

Tehran Times Service

"Unity" is a favorite term used by human societies. Everyone is aware of the conditions that prevail in the world of Islam and Muslims in particular. There is no need now to speak of the sufferings of Muslims.

But if Muslim nations were united against the enemies of Islam, perhaps there would be no suffering Muslims. The advantage of the so-called "superpowers" over Muslims is only the unity which they have. Christianity has the biggest following in the world followed by Islam with 1,200,000,000 followers. If we study the rise in strategic importance of Islamic nations we will realize that Islamic nations are joined one after the other like the rings of a chain. Muslims nations from Indonesia to Morocco are all joined like the rings of a chain.

The most widely-read English monthly, the *Readers Digest*, in an article on the importance of the economic resources of Islamic nations wrote, "Islamic lands are equal to oil which is the life-blood of modern civilization."

It is obvious that none of the powers who try to decide our fate is better than us. They are only trying to sow discord among Muslims in order to divide them and rule over them. If we were only united and took the same stance towards the problems of the world of Islam, problems that lead to crises would have no ground to exist and conditions would have been better than they are today.

The point which Imam Khomeini was driving at is the unity of the Islamic world. The unity of word is the motto of Islam and Quran. The holy Quran states: "Hold fast to divine rope."

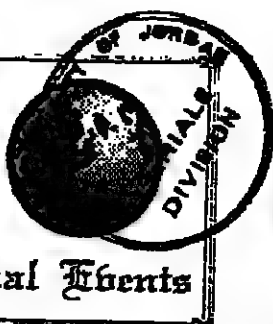
Every man of thought and understanding knows that world powers have not been able to

(Contd on Pg. 7)



## International Spectrum

A Glance at International Events



## TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1 1996; MORDAD 11, 1375; RABIUL-AWAL 15, 1417

## Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events



### WORLD NEWS

Wednesday July 24

#### Chechens Kill Six Russian Troops

Russian soldiers were killed and 23 wounded in fighting in Chechnya which included fierce clashes around the devastated southwestern village of Bamuk, the Russian military command said.

#### Floods Spread in Bangladesh

Flash floods have hit new areas of Bangladesh killing 11 more people and pushing the toll to 50, reports and officials said.



#### 25 Killed in Train Blast

At least 25 people were killed and 100 others injured when two powerful bombs ripped through a crowded train at the edge of the Sri Lankan capital, state run radio said.

Thursday July 25

#### Turkish Aircraft Raid PKK Bases

Turkish military aircraft raided five Kurdish camps in northern Iraq, while the Turkish National Security Council urged the extension of a state of emergency in mainly Kurdish southeastern Turkey.

#### Netanyahu Proposes Deal With Syria on Lebanon



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross on Thursday and proposed that a deal could be reached with Syria on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Southern Lebanon.

Friday, July 26

#### Sri Lanka Launches Major Offensive Against Tamil Tigers



Sri Lanka launched a major military offensive against Tamil Tiger separatists, after declaring an indefinite curfew in a sprawling rebel-held zone in the north of the country, officials said.

#### Arafat and Assad Pledge Greater Cooperation

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat ended a landmark visit to Syria after vowing in talks here to work with Damascus for Middle East peace.

#### Israel Seals Off Territories Totally



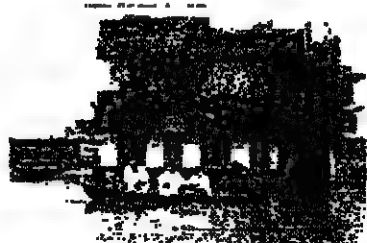
Israel clamped a total blockade on the West Bank and Gaza Strip after suspected Palestinian activists shot dead an Israeli man and his daughter-in-law and wounded his son, the army announced.

Saturday July 27

#### World Leaders Condemn Olympic Bomb Blast

World leaders sent messages of outrage and sorrow to President Bill Clinton, after a bomb at the Olympic games in Atlanta overnight left two people dead and more than 100 injured. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said: "This cowardly attack carried out with contempt for human life will bring indignation from all civilized people. We must not give in and we will not give in to hatred and violence."

#### Dhaka Surrounded by Flood Waters



Flood waters surrounded Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, forcing residents to seek safety as the rising nationwide death toll from flooding promoted accusations that the government has underestimated the disaster.

#### Petrov Snatches World Record in Snatch



World champion Aleksey Petrov of Russia set a snatch world record of 187.5kg in the 91kg division of the Olympic weightlifting competition on Saturday. He beat his own world mark of 186kg to take the lead with the clean and jerk section to follow.

Sunday July 28

#### Bomb in Cargo Hold Brought Down TWA Jet

A bomb in the front cargo hold of TWA Flight 800 ripped the front off the Jumbo Jet causing it to crash into the Atlantic killing all 230 people aboard, CNN television reported.



#### Buyoya Pledges to Form Transition Government



Burundi's new leader Pierre Buyoya, who seized power in an army-backed coup, said he would form a transition government by the end of the week. It will be "a broad-based government of national unity" led by a prime minister, added the Tutsi leader who ousted Hutu president Sylvestre Ntibunganya last Thursday.

#### Jakarta Tense But Calm After Riots

Hundreds of armed soldiers and police imposed a security clampdown on Jakarta after two people were killed in the worst riots in over 20 years, triggered when police stormed an opposition party's headquarters. Indonesia's President Suharto meanwhile issued a call for national unity.

Monday July 29

#### Rebels Kill 2 More Commandos in Sri Lanka



Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in northern Sri Lanka, killing two commandos as government forces prepared for a fresh offensive against the rebels, officials said.

#### 18 Prisoners in Critical Condition

Eighteen leftist prisoners were still in a critical condition a day after their 69-day hunger strike ended, Turkey's press reported.

Tuesday July 30

#### World Powers Vow Tough Anti-Terrorist Action at Paris Summit

World powers gathering in Paris for a summit on terrorism were expected to come up with a tough plan of action to highlight their determination to fight indiscriminate violence.

#### Bomb Hero Under Investigation in Atlanta

The security guard who said he discovered the Olympic bomb and saved scores of lives found himself the main suspect. Richard Jewell, a 33-year-old former police officer, denied he had placed the bomb in the centennial Olympic Park that left two dead and 112 injured.



#### Bomb in Cafe in Algiers Suburb

A bomb ripped through a busy cafe in west Algiers, close to the national security headquarters, and left several people injured, witnesses said.

Wednesday July 24

#### Iran-Sierra Leone Parliamentary Ties Discussed

Vice-Speaker of the Majlis, Hojatoleslam Hassan Ruhani called for expansion of Iran-Sierra Leone cooperation in all domains especially in parliamentary affairs.

#### Message of Qatari Emir Conveyed to President Rafsanjani



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the Qatari foreign minister, before leaving Tehran for Doha, Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem al-Thani, who conveyed a message from Emir of Qatar.

Thursday July 25

#### Habibi Arrives in Sarajevo



Heading a political and economic delegation, the First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, arrived in Sarajevo, Bosnia to take part in the first meeting of Iran-Bosnia joint committee.

Friday July 26

#### China Raises \$27m to Fund Exports to Iran

A Chinese banking syndicate has raised a \$270 million loan to support Chinese exports for a subway construction project in Iran, the China Daily reported.



#### U.S. Congress Decision Unlawful

Internationally accepted rules will not allow the U.S. to dictate its will to independent countries, substitute Friday prayer leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, stressed.

Saturday July 27

#### Iran, Bosnia Ink 7-Point MOU

A 7-point memorandum of understanding was inked between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina for boosting economic, cultural and educational cooperation. Iran's First Vice-President Hassan Habibi and Bosnia's Prime Minister Hassan Muratovic signed the letter of understanding.

#### Iran Holds Cultural Exhibition in Syria

Iran's cultural exhibition was inaugurated in Edlib, northern Syria, on the eve of the Unity Week marking the birth anniversary celebration of Prophet Mohammad (S).

Sunday July 28

#### 2nd Meeting of AFFAR opens



The second meeting of the Asian Foundation for Fusion Research (AFFAR) started work here at the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) with the participation of researchers in the field.

Monday July 29

#### IRGC Ends Operations Against Outlaws, Bandits

At least 20 senior members of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) have been killed in the operations launched by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) to suppress anti-revolutionaries and bandits in western border regions.

Tuesday July 30

#### Foreign Minister Velayati Left for Geneva

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati heading a political delegation left for Geneva Tuesday to take part in the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

057.07.1154



# 'Fat? No, It's My Genes'

**F**at is on the move. According to the latest report from the Department of Health, 13 percent of British men and 16 percent of women are obese. Not good, certainly, but surely not as bad as in those pre-leisure revolution days, when we were all so much less health-conscious and calorie-aware?

Wrong. Back in 1980, when people barely knew one end of an exercise bike from the other, obesity figures were half those of today - six percent for men, seven for women.

The fat fact is, there has been a weight explosion in the past 15 years - matched, ironically, by a boom in spending on slimming products, currently at 7770 million a year, compared with just 77735 million in 1990.

When it comes to being merely overweight, the figures are even more frightening. According to a report entitled *Obesity*, one in three of us heavier than is medically safe.

Genetic researches are now on the track of a gene that governs a weight-reducing hormone, and

food laboratories have almost perfected a "fat substitute" that passes clean through the body. Yet amid all this understanding, we still fail spectacularly to match our slender aspirations. So what has gone wrong? "Simple," says Marim Wiseman, head of the Department of Health's nutrition unit. "We're eating more than we need." He's emphatically clear on this point: there's no suggestion that fat might be due to something outside our control. "The rumor that there's a glandular element in fat is quite false. In 99.99 percent of cases, fatness is due to people eating more than their bodies use up. Many fat people say they don't eat much. They complain that they go on diets but never manage to lose weight. Yet the reality is that even though they may eat small meals, they snack a lot. When we put those same people in a special metabolic ward and control their diet to, say, 1000 calories a day, they reliably and perceptibly lose weight."

So to lose weight, all you have to do is eat less, right? Er...almost it's a start, but not the whole an-

swer. For although as a nation we are getting fatter, the confusing thing is that we're also eating less and less.

Our average intake today is much lower (1,990 calories per day) than in the pork-pie-and-chips days of 1950, when the figure was as high as 2,500.

## Exercise — The Gentle Persuader Against Flab

But although we eat less than we did 45 years ago, cars and sedentary jobs mean we take less exercise. It's this imbalance between calories swallowed and calories burnt off that makes us pole on the pounds.

Despite the TV-advert rumor that we all lead tennis-and-aerobics lifestyles, the reality is different. An Allied Dunbar/Sports Council national fitness survey in 1993 found that 70 percent of men and 80 percent of women took less exercise than was appropriate for their age.

Not that this means pumping iron in a gym or swimming 40 lengths before breakfast. More and more, the medical profession is recommending simple, everyday forms of exertion - like taking the stairs instead of the lift, and traveling somewhere on foot instead of by car. The idea now is to make exercise an integral part of the day, rather than a pre-booked leisure activity. And continuing in this vein, a report published last year by the Royal Society of Health, entitled *Take A Walk*, extolled the virtue of brisk strolls rather than team sports in the fight to keep back the tide of fat.

Even the smallest adjustment in the energy-in/energy-out balance can have significant effects on weight. For example, a four percent shift in the amount of food you eat can mean eight pounds more or less round the midriff in a year.

## Different Strokes

However, as the *Obesity* report makes clear, everybody has a different metabolic rate: some people need more exercise than others to burn off the same amount of food. And how does one find out one's own personal metabolic rate? "It's virtually impossible for any individual to know their own energy requirements with any degree of accuracy," the report concludes.

Cherie Martin the author of *Naturally Slim* (Doubleday,

## Japan's Junk Food:

### A Tall Story

Junk food diet is changing the face of Japan, say scientists. Westernized meals are not only making the Japanese taller, they are also elongating their faces. They require less chewing than traditional brown rice, dried fish and pickles, leading to underdevelopment of bones and muscles in the jaw.

## Garlic for Breakfast

Volunteers who took garlic tablets with a traditional British breakfast absorbed less fat than normal. After six weeks, levels of fat in their blood had decreased, while that of "good" HDL-cholesterol increased, which suggests that daily garlic could lower the risk of heart disease.



The big thing about Olean is that, unlike real nutritious fat, it passes in and out of the body without ever being digested. A one-ounce bag of crisp, for example, contains 10 grams of fat and 150 calories if cooked with fat, but zero fat and a mere 70 calories if made with Olean.

"Taste buds are tough critics," says P&G chairman and managing director John Pepper. "And fat-free chips made with Olean get rave reviews from consumers, who've compared them to regular chips fried in oil. By replacing the fat in snacks, Olean can help millions of people achieve an important dietary goal." Right.

Britain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is still pondering the merits or otherwise of Olean. The idea of eating something you know you're not going to digest does leave an odd taste in the mouth. Bulimia by another name, say some.

In balance, I think I'd rather go along with recommendation 7.3 in the *Obesity* report, which states: "Even light activity can provide a valuable addition to energy expenditure, as long as the activity is sustained for substantial parts of the day. Thus, transferring from a sitting to a standing position, to undertake a variety of tasks, does enhance energy output."

Absolutely. In fact, having written this entire article in an upright position, I reckon that due to my own uniquely individual energy balance, I must have used up several thousand calories in the process. Now where's that chocolate?

(Courtesy the Focus)

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## Recipe: Lemon Souffle



### You will need...

3 lemons, grated rind and juice  
3 large eggs, separated  
5 oz. castor sugar  
3 tablespoons cold water  
4 level teaspoons powdered gelatine (1/2 oz.)

### Preparation time

25 minutes

1/4 pint double cream  
For the decoration:  
pistachio nuts, chopped (optional)  
whipped cream

Cut a piece of greaseproof paper long enough to go round the outside of a 1 1/4 pint souffle dish and about 2 inches deeper than dish. Tie this round outside to form a collar.

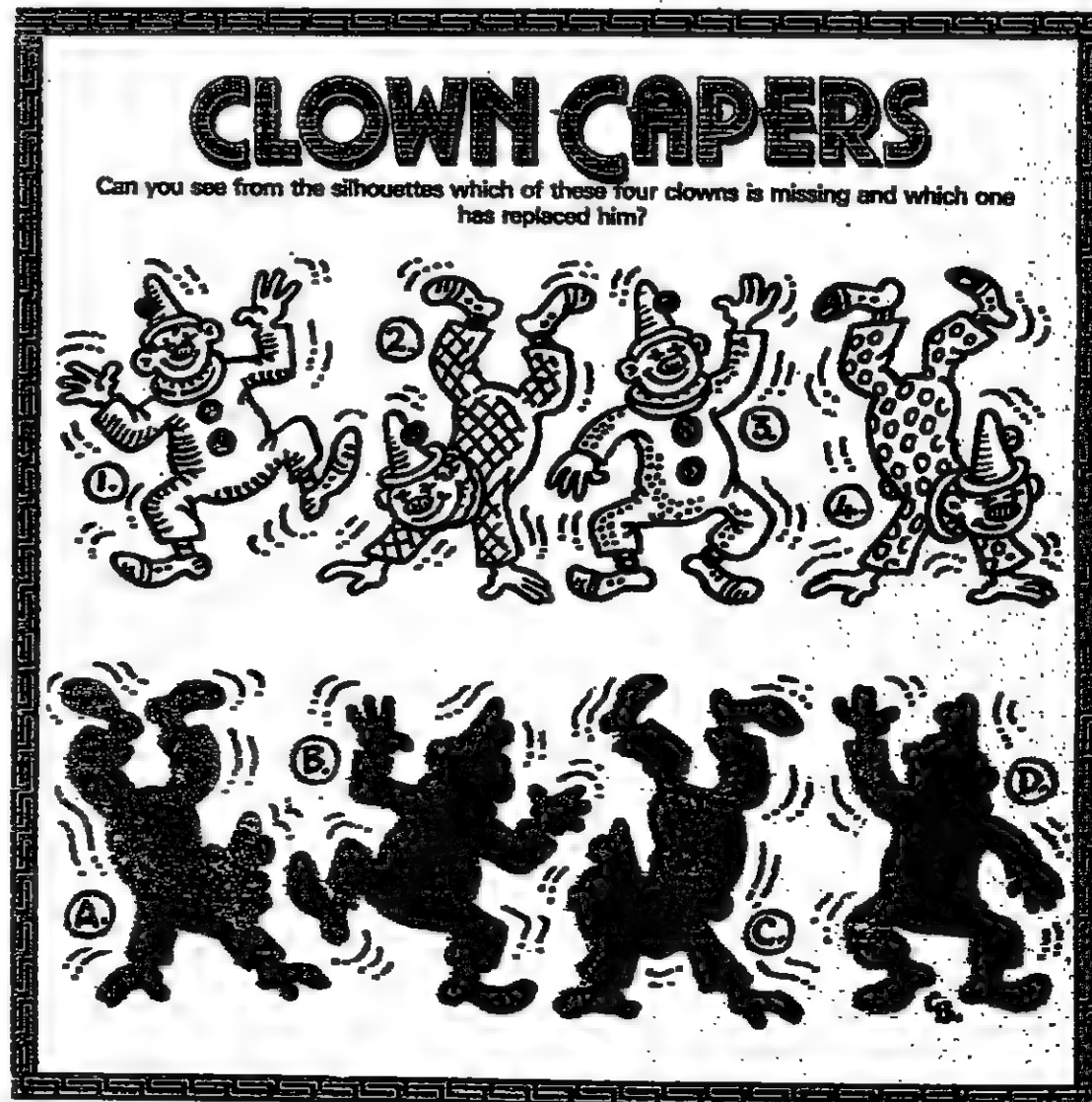
Put finely grated lemon rind, juice, egg yolks and sugar in a basin over a pan of hot water. Whisk until just beginning to thicken. Dissolve gelatine with water in a small bowl over a pan of simmering water (see *Quick Tip* below). When it has dissolved stir into lemon mixture. Leave mixture in a cold place until just beginning to set.

Whisk cream until it forms soft peaks. Fold into mixture. Whisk egg whites stiffly and fold into mixture. Turn souffle into the prepared dish and leave in a cold place to set. Just before serving remove paper carefully. Pipe a little cream round the edge and, if liked, decorate the side with pistachio nuts.

Serves 5-6

### QUICK TIP

Using gelatine — always soak powdered gelatine in a little cold water for a few minutes to allow the gelatine to swell, before dissolving over a pan of simmering water in a small bowl.



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## IRAN SHARGH NEISHABOUR C.S.A

Manufacturer of Household and Industrial Appliances

Iran Shargh Industrial Group was established in 1977 under the legal accreditation of Khorasan Industries to manufacture gas and kerosene heaters and water-heaters. The group produced some 15,000 heaters and 5,000 water-heaters in its first year of establishment.

Due to outburst of the imposed war between Iran and Iraq and after a secular stagnation in the production line, the group started its activities once again in 1983. In tandem with the policies of the Islamic Republic on substitution and retrenchment of energy, Iran Shargh, in an endeavor in 1983 began to transform its kerosene consuming products to gas appliances. The strategy soared the group's household appliances production capacity to 50,000 heaters and 50,000 water heaters annually.

**Quality of the Task and Application of Scientific and Practical Management**  
The reason behind the success of the company goes back to the attention it gives to customers' satisfaction. Enjoying qualified

and experienced experts has enabled the group to obtain commendation letters and Golden Emblem from the Iranian Institute for Standard and Industrial Researches for three successive years.

**Facilities and Utilization of State-of-the-Art Technology**

To attain mass production with high quality, Iran Shargh has applied mechanization systems in its production line. In designing, moulding and administration sections, the group employs a computer network. Also in glazing section the leakage path system provides high quality glazed products. In furnace painting section all the pieces are painted in a mechanized line.

Furthermore in welding, sectioning, pressing, spot welding and assembly line departments a collection of domestic and foreign machinery along with experienced engineers and experts are utilized in a bid to manufacture and assemble high quality heater pieces.

**Execution of Accomplished and Under-Progress Projects**

One of the most important projects ever accomplished by the group is fabrication of the glazing system, which in turn, enabled the company to gain independence and attain desirable quality in the field. Of the projects under progress, production of new models of gas heaters and wall water heaters as well as freezers receive prime concern of Iran Shargh.

**Development Agenda of the Company and Safe Competition in National Markets**

To develop the company, utilization of the state-of-the-art technology receives utmost priority from the company. Development of the human resources and the use of quality control systems pave the way for better and safe competition in national and international markets.

**Technology Transfer and Export Agenda**

Keeping pace with the economic policies of the government to achieve desirable export rate, the company has launched some activities as participation in international exhibitions and



expositions, establishing commercial relations with foreign countries and transfer of technology to/from other countries.

**Self-Sufficiency and Hard Currency Retrenchment**  
In order not to import metal sheets for water heater tank, the company has substituted glazed coats for

galvanized sheets. The radiation glazing system was designed and developed by Iranian engineers and Iran Shargh's experts.

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## Engineer Karimi Elaborates on Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company's Activities and Achievements

Engineer Karimi managing director of Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company (IPWSC) recently elaborated on the achievements and agenda of IPWSC. First he called on Ilam citizens not to waste potable water which is a "divine element" in the cycle of human life. This heavenly matter is purified and distributed by the incessant efforts of workers and experts of Water and Sewage Company.

He added: Our prime concern is to help people face no shortage of water. For this we try to increase water output more than ever in order not to have any breakage in water supply.

People should join the endeavor by not irrigating gardens and green areas with potable water. That is because Ilam water distribution system is not a modern and reliable network. Furthermore the network suffers chronic corrosion and pipe breakage, due to its un-conformity with international standards. That's the reason why Ilam water network suffers a lot of leakage. As a matter of fact, the amount of water consumed per capita does not go with the number of population. In other words we face an overconsumption of potable water in the province.

Concerning the aforementioned facts, creation of 250 km new water pipelines should receive the utmost attention. To achieve the goal there should be created almost 40 km of new pipelines.

IPWSC's prime concern is to increase potable water output, thus remove water shortage to a great deal.

whereas due to lack of insufficient investment in the field, the company has laid only 8 km of water pipelines. The more delay in laying the pipelines, the more damage in the irrigation and potable water distribution system, excavation, asphalt and manpower consumption. To avoid the damages

sq.m built area for which it has budgeted 300 million rials for purchasing laboratory apparatus. The project will be operational in near future.

He went on to say: In the laboratory potable waters of different cities are tested to be decided on their permanent and temporary hardness of water, alkaline and acid, chlorine, sodium, magnesium, lead and other mineral elements existing in water. Installation and commissioning of

later, elaborated on the sewage system, saying due to prolonged water shortage and penetration of household sewage which penetrates through the wells into the underground water reservoirs, some of the potable water wells have gone phut.

Water sewage is a dangerous factor for the environment. Following years of research and study by Mahab Ghods Consulting Engineers Company, Ilam water sewage system was reevaluated during

from all four districts and transfer it to the city sewage purification center. The main sewage collector line can transfer 112,560 cu.m of sanitary effluent every 24 hours (1,300 lit/per sec.). In other words it is capable of transforming the aforementioned amount of

waste coming from an estimated 378250 individuals of the year 2016. The city's per capita effluent production is 175 lit. daily with an average flow speed of 6,650



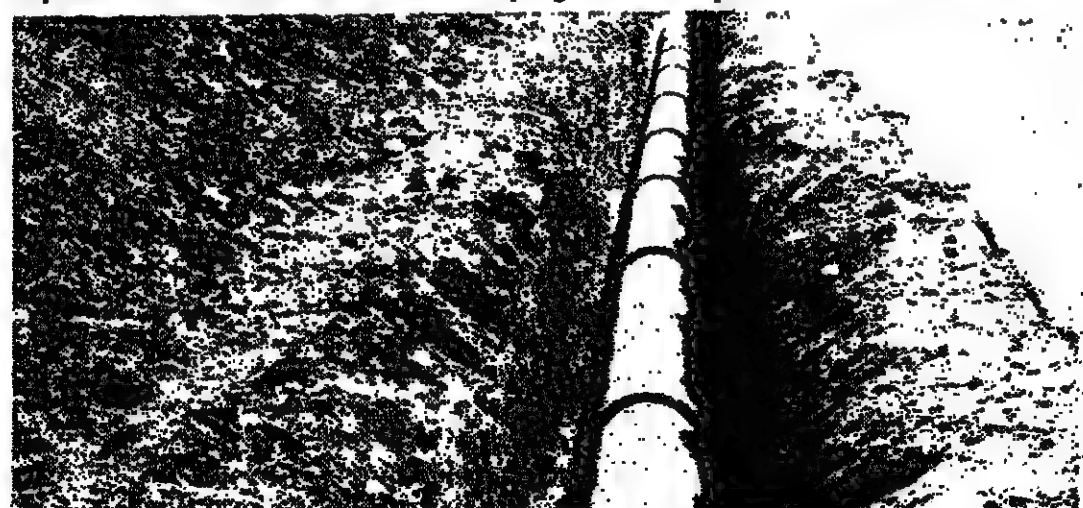
cu.m per day.  
The first phase of the project

the years 1980-1991. As a result of the researches Water and Sewage Company (J.S.) was established to follow the executive operations of the project. Due to the connection of the network to sewage transferring line and water purification system, the city was divided into four districts.

The first executive designs of the first district were completed in Feb. 1994 followed by the second district designs in Jun. 1995. Shortly after the designing of District 3 sewage system was completed in March 1995.

In spite of concluding the agreement in Sept. 1995, the prov-

said: To access safe potable water and avoid water shortage along with discharging some urban water wells from the water system and handing them over to municipalities to be used for irrigation of green areas, IPWSC in an endeavor studied a plan to increase Gol-Gol Spring waters. The pro-



the company requires sufficient development budget.

It is crystal clear that irrigation of green spaces with potable water brings about problems for the company.

Regarding the quality and quantity status of water, Engineer Karimi said in addition to assigning its experts to short-term water laboratory training courses, IPWSC has established a quality control laboratory on a land area of almost 1,000 sq.m with 500

ject has been materialized by manufacturing two shockproof 8 cu.m tanks on the first and second installations of Gol-Gol to inject 90 lit. of potable water per second into the provincial pipelines. Accomplishing the new strategy will soar water collection from Gol-Gol Spring from 120 lit. to 300 lit.

At present the installation operations of the tanks are at final stages.

Ilam Province Water and Sewage Company managing director,

ince's geographical status, rainfall and adverse weather conditions, IPWSC could only lay 10 km of sewage system pipelines in the city of Ilam.

The executive operations of the main sewage collector pipeline of Ilam was commenced in 1996 by Mahab Ghods. The line was laid by reinforced concrete pipelines of 1,000 mm diameters with a total length of 4,200 meters from the suburban ring of Ilam. The network will collect the city effluent



with a length of 2,000 meters will be constructed costing 350 million rials which will be provided by national development budget (re-construction budget).

It should be noted that IPWSC needs government support to help remove obstacles in the way of excavation and preparing facilities to the contractors during the executive operations of the project.

The managing director added the same project has been launched

costing 130 million rials. Again the project will be budgeted by the national development budget.

The total length of Dehloran collector lines is predicted to be almost 65 km which will be expanded up to 8,000 km in 1996.

Also in Mehran Khalilian Contractor has laid 2 km of pipelines for the sewage system at a cost of 280 million rials starting from 1995. Mehran sewage system de-

*Water is a vital element in the circle of life. Try not to waste this divine matter of the existence.*

IPWSC Public Relations Dept.

in the cities of Dehloran and Mehran.

During the past years there has been laid some 4 km of pipes in the above mentioned cities. The executive operations of the second phase in Dehloran to collect city sewage has been started in the current year. It is planned that the collector lines of the project be made of cement sewage pipes with a diameter of 250 and 300 mm,

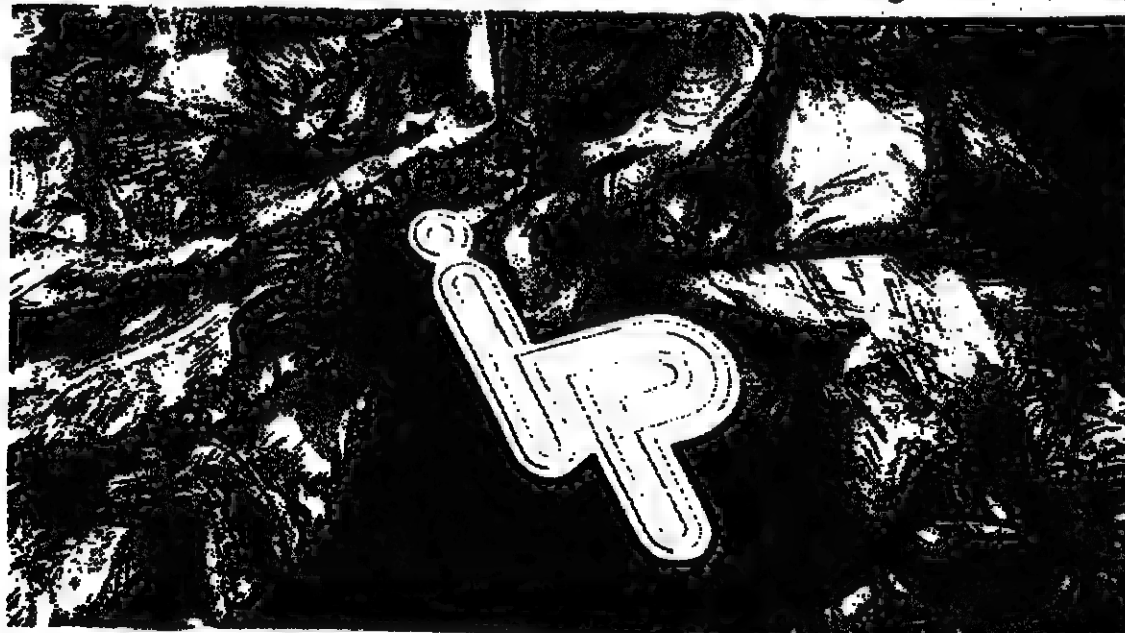
sign was planned by Isfahan Water and Sewage System Research Consultant in 1995. The construction operations started last year and the project is predicted to be accomplished in a span of 25 years.

The pipe-laying operations of 8 km of the system with pipes of 300 and 400 mm dia. at a cost of 900 million rials will be accomplished during the current year.

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## Production Line of Patrol and Benz Truck Steering Wheel Hydraulic Pumps Operational in Mashhad



**I**ran Hydraulic Industries successfully implemented the patterning of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles and Benz trucks in Mashhad.

Engineer Mohammad Mahdi Shakourzadeh, the managing director of the unit, said that the mass production of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles will be started in the near future and over 3,000 sets will be manufactured annually.

While he was giving some explanations to the Minister of Industries, Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, he added that the mass production of hydraulic pumps for the steering wheels of Benz trucks will be started in autumn.

To make the pumps for the steering wheels of Patrol automobiles and Benz trucks, we import only 10 percent materials needed and at present they cannot be made in our country, he explained.

Concerning the fact that we utilize 90 percent domestic raw materials and machinery, the manufacturing of these two pumps due to foreign currency will have only a 10-percent value added, Shakourzadeh continued.

The managing director of Iran Hydraulic Industries pointed out that the unit's mass production of brake limit parts of

Renault 5 have been recently started and according to the con-

tract signed this year between the unit and Sazeh-Gostar Co., the supplier of Renault and Pars Khodro automobiles parts, the unit will give the above-mentioned company 5,000 sets of brake limit parts of Renault 5 this year.

"Totally, \$800,000 have been allocated for the purchase of needed machinery to manufacture hydraulic pumps and brake limit parts", Engineer Shakourzadeh said. "We have saved up one million and five hundred thousand dollars per year through manufacturing these parts", he added.

He briefed the minister of industries that Iran Hydraulic Industries as the sole and first manufacturer of hydraulic pumps in the country, produces 25,000 pumps with a capacity of 18-180 liter per minute and 210 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>, all of which are injected to the market.

Concerning the exports of the unit's products, the managing director of Iran Hydraulic Industries told the minister of industries, "At present, some products of this industrial unit's are exported to Pakistan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates (UAE) to materialize the government's policies for self-sufficiency and independence. It is worth mentioning that they have welcomed the quality as well as the price of our products comparable with similar overseas ones.

Iran Hydraulic Industries began working with a production capacity of 25,000 van pumps in

1992, Shakourzadeh explained, adding the unit enjoying the most advanced machinery and the skilled experts is now manufactur-

ing 10,000 steering boxes and complete pumps of steering wheel annually has been carried out in industrial town of Toos, Mashhad

of cooperation between Ministry of Industries and the banks, it is expected to reach the utilization stage in 8 months, he said.



ing hydraulic pumps which vastly used in road-construction machinery, plastic-injecting devices, die casters, overweight presses, and other hydraulic systems.

According to the country's needs, the development plan of Iran Hydraulic Industries to manu-

and 30 percent of its executive operations has been implemented so far, the managing director told Ne'matzadeh.

The plan due to financial difficulties originated from the contraction policies of the banks is slowly being executed and in case

Visiting Iran Hydraulic Industries, the Minister of Industries, Engineer Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh, who had traveled to Khorasan Province to inaugurate some industrial and manufacturing units and get familiar with their problems, said, "Every Iranian company helps the country's industrial production reach its optimal stage, make a determined effort to export the industrial goods and finally move toward the country's self-sufficiency, the Ministry of Industries provides

them with raw materials and the probable needed machinery which cannot be made in Iran." He encouraged the industrialists to introduce new techniques, to innovate, and to produce high-quality goods. The industrial units' managers particularly the makers of auto parts should try to obtain maximal benefit from the existing facilities as well as the huge capital allocated for the auto industry in order to prevent importing the auto parts, he continued.

"There is no reason to import our needed auto parts while we have skilled manpower enjoying good technical knowledge.

"The government are determined to meet the needs for auto parts in the shortest time through domestic production and in this regard it needs the industrialists' efforts.

"The Ministry of Industries as the custodian of industry, supports it and removes every problem decelerating production," Ne'matzadeh explained.

Regarding the payment of foreign currency differential in 1991 by the industrial units to the Bank Markazi, the minister said, "The industrial are not supposed to pay the aforesaid differential if the bank is the factor of rescheduling and vice versa."

The similar problem was set forth during the recent visits of some manufacturing units which will be solved in Tehran, Ne'matzadeh continued.

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## IRAN-VANET COMPANY (P.J.S)

### Sole Manufacturer of Mazda Vehicles in Iran

#### History of Establishment

**I**ran-Vanet Co. was established in 1952 under the name of Khaliq Public Joint Stock Company. That time the company had the responsibilities of being a commercial representative as well as marine transportation affairs and commissioning operations.

In 1971 the production line of Mazda 1,000 with a loading capacity of 500 kg was inaugurated and by 1989 almost 60,000 vehicles were supplied for the national markets.

Manufacturing Mazda 1,600 began in 1974. Until now the company has produced 90,000 vehicles of the aforementioned model. All of the production was purchased by private sector.

At present Iran-Vanet manufactures single- and double-cabin Mazda 1600 vehicles. To meet the

requirements of the hospitals and health centers, Iran-Vanet has produced Mazda 1600 ambulances, some of which have been delivered to the related organizations. Also manufacturing sedan and van vehicles is on the agenda of the company for near future.

It should be mentioned that Iran-Vanet prepares almost 20% of the requirements of the national markets. Due to variety of the new products, the company will still supply a greater portion of the domestic markets vehicle requirements.

To strengthen its capability in transportation activities of the country and play its role in this industry, Iran-Vanet has endeavored to design and produce double-cabin Mazda vans.

Iran-Vanet is the only stockholder of Iran Chassi Saz Co. whose whole (100%) shares is

purchased by the company. The company produces almost 120,000 pieces of van, truck, trailer and minibus chassis annually for Iran-Vanet.

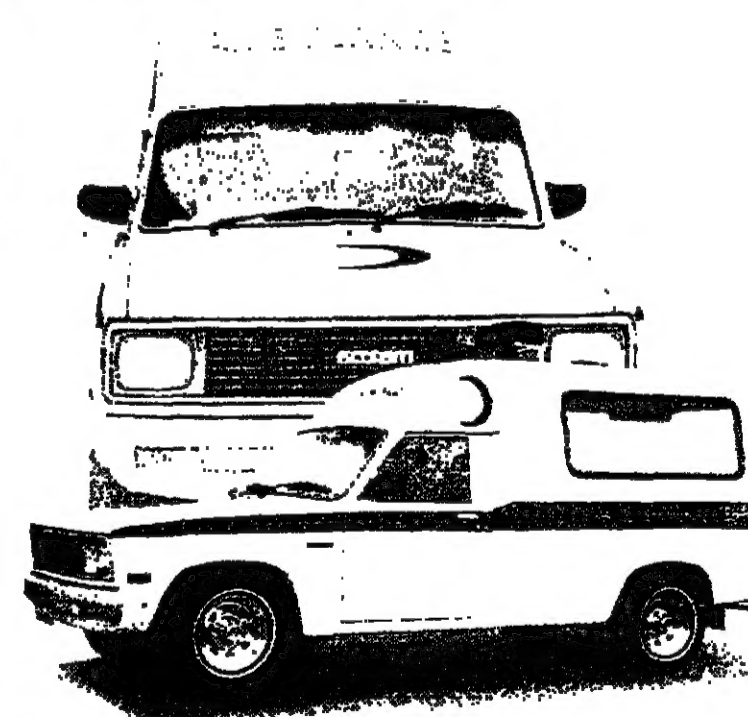
especially from Central Asian countries.

So far Iran-Vanet has exported a part of its products to Armenia, Turkmenistan and Macedonia. It



All the chassis productions are in conformity with the international standards and the company accepts chassis orders from abroad

also intends to establish branches, service centers and spare parts representatives in all Central Asian countries with the collabora-



ration of two other Iranian vehicle manufacturing companies. Such an accomplishment will soar export potentialities of the company and prepare after sales services for foreign customers.

In this regard, the company has absorbed almost one million dollars of foreign exchange by exporting its products to international markets.

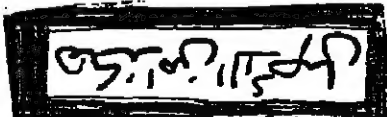
In tandem with the economic policies of the government, Iran-Vanet has transformed itself from a simple factory to a modern pro-

ductive unit, utilizing state-of-the-art technology. The utmost concern of the company, now, is to identify domestic producers and conclude contracts with them.

Finally it is worth mentioning that 50% of the vehicle pieces is produced in Iran while the other 50% is imported from foreign countries. Enjoying close collaboration of the domestic producers, Iran-Vanet will produce another 10% of the vehicle pieces in the country by the end of the current year.

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# Iran Ventis Takes Giant Steps

## Toward the Exploitation of New Sources of Energy

**ventis**  
ENERGIETECHNIK

### Foreword

Today's world is the place of development and improvement in all dimensions (medical, technical, economic) particularly industry which has been made great progresses in the last two centuries. On the verge of 21st century, man thanks to great industrial progresses has been faced major changes. The recent industrial changes have met the man's needs in the past two centuries.

Now, what is clear to us is that the presented project is one of the most significant ones which can be executed in our country, and improve the deprived areas as well as revolutionize Iran's industry and economy.

Today's man has succeeded to control the energies existing in the environment but unfortunately, there are still some countries which have not become industrial and use ready made energies. As a result, their environment and exiting facilities have been destroying. For instance, they use forest and fossil fuels leading to deforestation and negative impact on their environment. The fossil fuels can be consumed in a much better way in the world but in the under-developed countries or in other words the third-world countries which mainly rely on their mono-product, the people's life just depends on the same product. It is obvious that there is no way for these societies but getting rid of mono-product economy. In the past, our country was unfortunately among them but the post-Revolution basic changes let the country make leading industrial progresses. For this reason, the government has planned basically to support the industrialists working in different fields particularly the industries which save the fossil fuels and do not pollute the environment.

The wind power generators are among such industries. It is clear that these generators can be specially used in the windy areas. The wind in these areas brings some difficulties for the residents while they can be changed into comfort and facility. The generators

thanks to their variety can be installed in different areas.

The generators can even be installed in the automobile crossings in order to use the wind energy caused by the cars' move and in this to supply the electricity needed in the highways and expressways. It is worth mentioning that the extra energy can be

used for irrigation, etc. In fact, this branch of industry as a new technology has the capability to bring comfort and facility for the people living in the windy areas of Iran and in this way eradicates the deprivation.

Studying Iran's natural geography, we find out that our country has a rough nature. So, the Iranians have always challenged with this harsh nature which both causes destructive floods in some areas and also brings drought for the other areas. Today, we see that the same harsh nature is obtained the maximal benefit through technology and its inhabitants are given various services. We can create wonderful changes in the life residents living in these areas if we succeed to get surface waters and wind energy under control. Bringing the mentioned energy under control, we are capable of generating the electricity for these areas through which the ground waters can be applied for flourishing them and finally saving the national products. In this way, the unemployment is brought under control and the public welfare is improved in these deprived areas such as Sistan-Baluchestan.

Now, what is clear to us is that the presented project is one of the most significant ones which can be executed in our country, and improve the deprived areas as well as revolutionize Iran's industry and economy.

We hereby extend our sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Industries' authorities bringing major changes in the country's industry through their guidance.

Wind power generators are the technological phenomena of the current century which have revolutionized different walks of life in different corners of the globe. They are easily portable to hard-trodden roads and to the spots where due to adverse geographical conditions commuting proves to be hard — as mountainous regions, also far away establishments.

Exploitation of other sources of energy has received prime concern in the research agenda of industrial countries. Today scientists

**Exploitation of other sources of energy has received prime concern in the research agenda of industrial countries. Today scientists try to find a new source of energy to ban the use of fossil fuels which damage the environment or atomic fuels which bring about problems for the nature.**

tists try to find a new source of energy to ban the use of fossil fuels which damage the environment or atomic fuels which bring about problems for the nature. That's why scientists have focused their attention on solar, wind, sea, etc. energies.

Iran's special geographical status enables our scientists to utilize wind energy in the central, eastern and western parts of the country. As an example one could refer to 120-day winds of Sistan and Baluchestan, Manjil Plain, Qazvin Plain, Shahreyar and desert winds. The aforementioned cities and regions enjoy chronic wind during the whole year.

The extent of the cities and areas along with the poverty there, necessitates the use of wind generators in those regions.

Concerning the fact that wind generators are easy to use, besides they need no constant supervision, they can be installed and brought into operation without asking for experts and techni-

cians. So, these generators can be installed in the villages and poor hamlets of the country.

These generators are manufactured in three types: Small (portable), medium and big sizes. The small portable generators could be used in mountainous regions and villages while the medium-sized generators may be used where a group of villages meet to form a cluster, also it can be used in cattle and chicken raising centers. The big-sized generators could be utilized in semi-industrial regions, small factories, and industry complexes and macro villages.

The electricity produced may be applied for lighting, water irrigation projects, suburban workshops and other suburban projects and

kW and 500 kW.

Type 5 kW is capable of installing in the adverse regional conditions due to its light weight and portability. Type 100 kW is suitable for the cattle and chicken raising centers, irrigation of gardens and fields and electricity supply of the villages. Type 500 kW due to be manufactured in near future, is suitable for giant industrial and production units.

Concerning the generators' ease of usage and the privileges they deserve, establishment of a factory to produce these kinds of generators is a giant step toward the development of the country, in tandem with the economic policies of the government.

### History of Establishment

Employing wind energy has been accomplished by the intelligent mankind from the very old times. Taking a glance at the ancient civilizations may give us some

**Wind power generators are the technological phenomena of the current century which have revolutionized different walks of life in different corners of the globe.**

proofs of wind energy utilization in different forms and in different corners of the world.

The easiest ways of using wind energy are in winnow the grains and wind mills. In

some countries like the Netherlands, Spain and some corners of Europe, making use of the wind energy is very common.

Not until the Industrial Revolution experts insisted on the use of wind energy. Because, then, as a result of the emergence of the new technology and fossil fuels, combustion engines generated the necessary energy. But humanity became aware of the damage fossil fuels bring about for the environment. Scientists found out that fossil fuels may be utilized in other useful industries which may be both economical and safe.

Nowadays experts confess that combustion engines are not suitable generators of energy. For this, scientists tried to find new and safe sources of energy. Their efforts bore fruit when they offered plans to make use of solar, wind, sea, etc. energies.

At present generating wind energy is prevalent in industrial countries; specially in Europe it is the most common source of energy because it has no danger to the environment.

Solar energy is not economical and common, due to the high cost it requires. But wind energy generators are being expanded in all corners of the world: Iran

Ventis and Bad-o-Barg offer the technical know-how for the utilization of the wind energy in Iran.

All the operations are observed and supervised by Bad-o-Barg and Noor-Gostar Jihad companies.

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## Feature

## What Makes Olympic Champions?

By John E. Anderson

*The Olympic flame that top performers pursue burns inside them.*

When Kristi Yamaguchi fell to the ice in the 1992 Winter Olympics at Albertville, France, spectators groaned. Surely the 20-year-old's chances for a gold medal in figure skating had evaporated with that tumble. But Kristi scrambled up, flashed a dazzling smile and spun back into her program. When the judges' scores were announced, she had received near-perfect marks despite the spill. Her spirited recovery gave her the gold medal—a tribute to her determination and courage.

As a consultant to U.S. Olympic teams and many individual athletes, I've seen dozens of young men and women like Kristi who reached deep into themselves at a critical moment and found something that brought out their best. They mounted the winners' stand not simply because of athletic talent but because of resolute inner fiber.

Indeed, at a world-class competition like this month's Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, there's only an infinitesimal difference in athletic ability between No. 1 and No. 2.

Over the years, I've pinpointed several qualities that make Olympic champions. These characteristics are invaluable wherever they are applied—in school, in the home or on the job.

They had a dream. Kristi Yamaguchi visualized herself as an Olympic champion the first time she put on skates, at age six. Bonny Warner, who represented the U.S. in three Olympic luge competitions, didn't have her dream until she was a college student. Before that, she had never heard of the racing sled called a luge. But once the dream took shape, both young women clung to it tenaciously and worked to make it come true.

Most important, their parents and those around them supported the dream. Loretta Dawes, whose 16-year-old daughter, Dominique, was one of the first female black gymnasts to represent the U.S. in the Olympics, recently told the press that bringing up a world-

class athlete isn't easy. For an entire year before the 1992 Olympics, she rarely saw her daughter, who lived with her coach to be close to the gym, a 45-minute drive from home. Dawes was asked what advice she would give other parents of athletes. She answered simply and eloquently: "Believe in your child."

That doesn't mean every child who dreams of Olympic fame will one day climb onto the winners' stand. But being able to dream is the first step on every road to success—even if the initial dream eventually leads to a different road. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, for example, once considered a career as a professional baseball player. However, he channeled his ability to dream in other directions.

They're fired up. The Olympic flame that top performers pursue burns inside them. They're driven not only to be the best but to do their best—always.

That's why Carl Lewis, who already holds eight Olympic gold medals, is again competing at 38 in this year's games, against youngsters half his age; and why discus thrower Al Oerter, after winning gold medals in four consecutive Olympics, tried again for the Olympic team at age 47.

Swimmer Janet Evans, who won three gold medals in Seoul in 1988, embodied that same desire to win four years later. After she narrowly missed a gold medal in the 400-meter freestyle, she swam one of the most psychologically challenging races of her life in the 800-meter freestyle to win the gold. "I just wanted to be up there on that winners' stand one more time," she confessed. The class valedictorian, the corporate CEO—those who rise to the top in any endeavor—must have that same drive.

They bounce back. Television coverage focuses on victories, but the Olympics are also about defeat. In the 1992 men's giant slalom, for instance, there were three medalists—and 130 other skiers who didn't get medals. Athletes know that losing is part of what they do. Real winners in sports, as

in business or school, are those whose failures inspire them to go at it again.

Swimmer Mike Barrowman used to wear his second and third-place medals to bed to make himself think about what he might have done differently to finish first. His method paid off. He won the 200-meter breast-stroke in world-record time in 1992.

They aim high. I once asked a world-class athlete to guess at the outcome of a major competition. "I'll come in fifth," he said. And that's exactly where he finished, even though he could easily have placed third, or even second, since two other major contenders fared poorly. In setting our sights low, we often live up to our expectations.

Contrast him with "Flo-Jo"—Florence Griffith-Joyner. Training a week before the 1988 Games, she wrote in her diary the time she expected to run and win the 100-meter dash: 10.54 seconds. When Flo Jo crossed the finish line, the clock showed 10.54. She had not only seen herself winning, but called her winning time to the split second.

They plan for trouble. In the 1984 Olympics, heavyweight boxer Henry Tillman laid out a careful strategy. He would fight defensively, warding off his opponent's blows while waiting for an opening. But when the bout began, it became obvious that the other fighter had decided to do the same thing. After the first round, Tillman stepped back and dropped his hands; you could almost see him mentally shift gears. Knowing his initial game plan might not work, he had come prepared with a second. He switched to the offensive, and he won the match—and ultimately a gold medal.

Kristi Yamaguchi was ready too. Originally, after the move that made her stumble, she had planned to perform her most difficult jump—three revolutions in the air and a graceful single-skate landing known as a triple salchow. But Kristi was ready with a substitute in case she erred. She cut the triple salchow to a double, enabling her to regain her balance and rhythm and catch up with her music. Then she went on to perform another triple jump, the lutz. Her performance was flawless thereafter.

They never quit. The 1992 Summer Olympics featured two tremendously poignant moments. American sprinter Gail Devers, the clear leader in the 100-meter hurdles, tripped over the last barrier. She agonizingly pulled herself to her knees and crawled the last five meters, finishing fifth—but finishing.

Even more heart-rending was the 400-meter semifinal in which British runner Derek Redmond tore a hamstring and fell to the track. He struggled to his feet and began to hobble, determined to complete the race. His father ran from the stands to help him off the track, but the athlete refused to quit. He leaned on his father, and the two limped to the finish line together, to deafening applause.

Hanging in there despite setbacks teaches us the value of per-



Carl Lewis (USA), winner of 8 gold medals in the 1984 Winter Olympics.

severance. An inner dynamo keeps Olympic champions going—not just the promise of a medal, but the satisfaction of completing a difficult task against the odds. That same effort can apply whether the task is a race, a difficult mathematics lesson or a corporate report.

They make their own luck. When Paul Wylie won a silver medal in men's figure skating at Albertville, he surprised everyone but himself. Several skaters who had been expected to win medals had been injured or had performed poorly. "I was the last person expected to make the winners' podium," Wylie said. "But I had trained like crazy and when the favorites faltered, I was ready."

Month after month, year after year, Olympians I know go through a grind of pointing toward their big day.

In the Olympics, as in other aspects of life, luck certainly counts. The assistant clarinetist who has practiced diligently is lucky to get a chance to solo when the first clarinetist becomes ill. So is the assistant sales manager who fills in for the boss in an emergency. But both must be well prepared for their big break. When others slipped, Wylie stepped in and skated perfectly. In the Olympics—in everything—luck strikes those prepared to capitalize on it.

As you watch this year's Summer Olympics, look beyond the skaters' leaps and loops, the skiers slicing around slalom gates, the two-man and four-man bobsleds roaring down the course. In these spectacular maneuvers and superb performances, you can see qualities less easily measurable—qualities we can learn from, qualities for our children to imitate. (Courtesy of Reader's Digest, February 1994.)

## Travelogue

## Seychelles

*"You wanna go to sea-shells you say? Is there such a place?" I asked 'S-E-Y-C-H-E-L-L-E-S,' in the Indian Ocean, northeast of the Madagascar."*

If you're looking for a total getaway from your hectic city life, Seychelles is the place to go. Comprising over 100 islands which are spread out in 400,000 sq kms of the Indian Ocean, Seychelles is exactly a thousand miles away from the closest civilization, that is the Kenyan coast on the west.

Discovered just over 200 years ago, it gained its independence from the British Crown only in 1976. Lucky enough to come out unscathed from the devastating effects of the last two world wars, Seychelles is not the place to go shopping. But if you're looking for an uncrowded holiday resort which has got pulverized white sand beaches, rich flora and fauna, sunken mountain ranges, pristine waters ideal for snorkeling and scuba diving, Seychelles is one place which guarantees you against any rip off.

The main island of Mahe where over 90 percent of the Creole natives live has 70 beaches of different characters, ranked among the best in the world. Housing the international airport and political and economic center of the whole of Seychelles, Mahe is fully equipped with the modern

ocean without getting oneself wet is to make a trip to St. Anne National Park via a glass-bottomed boat. Being officially designated as one of the first marine reserve parks in the Indian Ocean, you are advised to "Take away nothing but photographs and memories." That means no fishing and collecting of seashells and corals. But no reason to be disgusted. Close by is Cerf Island where you could freely go for snorkeling and scuba diving. Afterwards, you can enjoy the tasty creole food and curry at the Beach Shed Bar and Restaurant.

From Mahe, you can take a 20-minute domestic flight, via Air Seychelles, to Praslin, the second largest island famous for its cocode-mer palm trees. If you prefer to go by boat, be prepared for a two-and-a-half hours' ride. Home to the Black Parrot which is one of nature's rarest birds, Praslin is a botanical paradise ideal for exploration by foot. If you intend to discover the island's natural treasures in a shorter time, you can take a cab, a bus or even rent a bicycle at the Flying Dutchman Hotel in Grand'Anse.

For would-be ornithologists, Cousin Island is a perfect place to go bird watching. Another desig-



Seychelles, the all-year round tropical paradise, is a thousand miles away from civilization.

amenities such as first class hotels and comfortable guesthouses, excellent telecommunication and transportation infrastructure, sports and training facilities especially for yachting and scuba diving, and more importantly, friendly people who speak fluent Creole, French and English. But in order to preserve the national surrounding and landscape, no house or hotel can be built here which is above the height of palm trees.

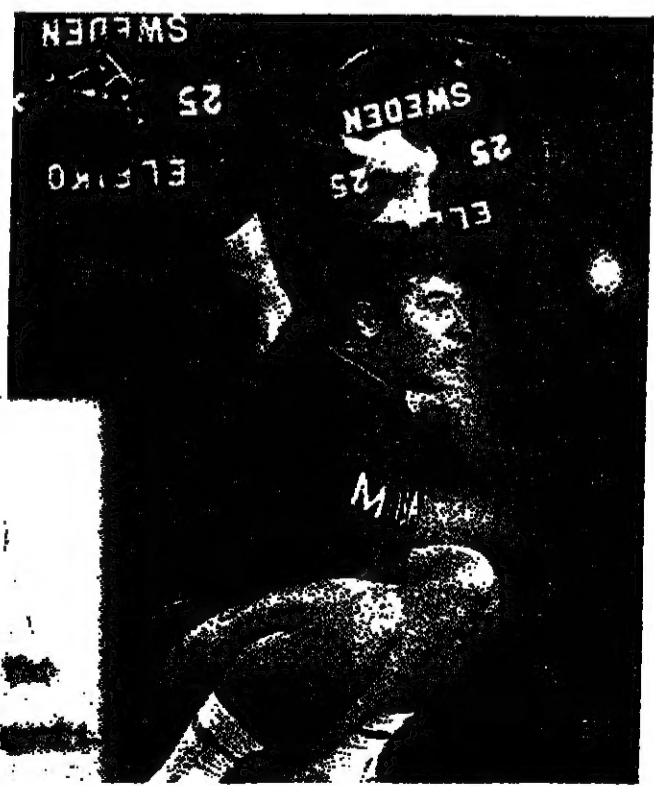
Victoria capital in the north-eastern part of the 150 sq km mainland boasts of a national museum and library, and historical monuments such as the clock tower and a huge sculpture which symbolizes the three continents where the natives originated from. Heavily patronized are the Creole restaurants, craft shops and art galleries. The fruit and vegetable markets sell a wide range of foodstuff.

The best way of discovering the richness and beauty of the

nated nature reserve owned by the International Council for Bird Preservation, Cousin is not the place for swimming, holding picnics, collecting shells and even smoking. Haven for endangered birds such as the Bush Warblers, the island only accommodates a maximum of 25 visitors at a time. If you want to see a quarter of a million birds soaring to the heights, the best time to visit this island is during April or May.

Just one mile northeast of Praslin is Curieuse, a tiny island well wrapped up with lush vegetation and huge takamak trees. Once a leper colony, the island is home to some 250 giant tortoises.

Southwest of Praslin is La Digue which is the fourth largest island in the Seychelles. As there are only half-a-dozen cars allowed to prow around the island at any one time, bicycles have become the common mode of transport. Watch out for the Paradise Flycatcher bird in La Digue.



Weightlifting champion Stefan Botev (Australia)

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**1993 — The Clinton administration tells NATO allies that if the European nations don't agree to tougher action on Bosnia, the United States is prepared to act alone.**

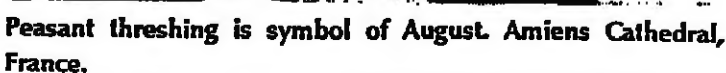
## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a group of children, likely in a school setting, posing for a picture. The children are arranged in several rows, some standing and some sitting. They are wearing patterned clothing, possibly uniforms. The image is heavily stylized with high contrast, making details difficult to discern.

**1991 — President Bush announces talks between Greece and Turkey to be held in the U.S. in September aimed at resolving disagreement over Cyprus.**

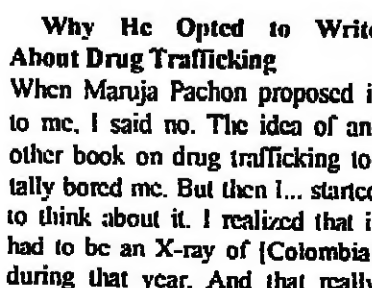
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**On Movies**  
My calling is to tell stories, and it's all the same to me whether it's in writing or in pictures. Cinema interests me a lot — I've always loved movies. I was a newspaper film critic when I was very young.

August, eighth month of the Christian year, having 31 day. It was named for the Roman Emperor Augustus, who enjoyed several personal triumphs during the month. Previously it had been called *Sextilis*, the six the month of the Roman year. To please Augustus the Roman senate took a day from February to make August of equal length with Caesar's month, July.



**'News of a Kidnapping'**  
It was a tremendous amount of work. I never thought it would be so hard. I had always wanted to



**On Latin American Democracy**

I believe that what's happened until now is a great process of democratic development in Latin America. What's bad about it is the kind of democracy — they are very weak. If you consider the presidents elected and the degree of public participation, it's better than before but I ask myself if this type of democracy isn't too vulnerable and, above all, if the United States continues to pose a very great danger to us.



**EBERHART** — The American People's Party of Illinois has announced by written press release that it is sponsoring a series of lectures among different groups of thought, science, literature, culture and health, and that it is also sponsoring a series of lectures on the subject of "The American People's Party and the American People."